

AMC Says GOP Asked \$100,000 Contribution

Washington

American Motors Corp. officials said yesterday that the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President had asked for a contribution of \$100,000 from its executives, but that the corporation flatly refused.

The episode began last spring, said William M. Trevarrow, Washington representative for American Motors and other firms. As he described it, Robert P. Odell, Jr., executive director of the Republican National Finance Committee visited Trevarrow's office here and asked for a \$100,000 contribution, which American Motors presumably would collect from its executives.

Campaign contributions out of corporate funds are illegal.

Trevarrow said he told Odell "No — after I stopped laughing," adding that "the

amount was absurd so far as I was concerned." Trevarrow then reported the solicitation to Frank Hedge, vice president for public relations of the automaker.

About a week later, Trevarrow said, Odell again visited him and asked for \$50,000 from American Motors officials.

In his pitch for the money, Trevarrow said, Odell stressed that funds contributed prior to April 7 would not have to be reported under a new campaign disclosure law. Trevarrow said he recalls the Odell solicitations took place in late March.

After the second solicitation, Trevarrow said he again telephoned Hedge at the corporation's Detroit headquarters.

Hedge said he told Trevarrow that American Motors would not meet such a request to solicit money from

its employees, and Trevarrow then informed Odell there would be no contribution.

Hedge said he in turn told board chairman Roy D. CHAPIN OF HIS ACTION AND Chapin concurred.

"I disapprove of the idea of executives telling their employees to contribute money to a certain candidate," Chapin said.

Odell was out of the country on vacation and could not be reached for comment. Odell worked during the campaign both for the Republican National Finance Committee and the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

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