

# Oilman's Donation Returned

**\$100,000 Gift  
Was Linked  
To Watergate**

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Associated Press

Robert H. Allen, a Texas oilman who gave \$89,000 later traced to the bank account of a man convicted in the Watergate break-in, has requested and received his entire \$100,000 contribution back from President Nixon's re-election committee.

The Committee for the Re-election of the President announced the refund yesterday as it filed federal reports which noted the recent transaction.

(The refund was the second to come to light yesterday. Earlier, sources close to the committee confirmed that it has released Walter T. Duncan, a financially plagued Texas financier, from his \$305,000 IOU at his request.)

The \$89,000 had come to the Nixon committee in the form of four checks from a Mexico City lawyer. After passing through several hands at the committee, the checks ultimately were deposited in a Miami bank account belonging to Bernard L. Barker. He was one of four Miami men who pleaded guilty in January to breaking into the Watergate headquarters of the Democratic National Committee the previous June.

The true source of the money remained a mystery for some time, though it was believed linked to Allen, since the Mexico City man was a lawyer for Allen's Resources and Chemical Corp. of Houston.

As a result, Allen, who was also a Texas fund-raiser for the Nixon finance committee, and his company became the subject of federal inquiries.

Allen, in a letter dated Jan. 23 to finance committee chairman Maurice H. Stans, asked "with considerable regret" for

his \$100,000 back and said:

"I have on many occasions expressed my grave concern over the allegations regarding the apparent ultimate use of \$89,000 of my contribution. As you know, I have not until recently informed you that I was the donor.

"I felt, and still do, that under the law I had every right to expect and enjoy the right of privacy and full anonymity. It was for this reason, as well as convenience, that I arranged to have the contribution delivered from Mexico." Allen went on to say: "It goes without saying that I would

See DUNCAN, A5, Col. 1

## DUNCAN, From A1

have been unwilling to make even a small contribution had I had any idea that activities such as the 'Watergate Affair' were being conducted nor would I have been willing to serve in any fund-raising capacity; and from our discussions, I know you feel the same way."

Allen referred several times in his letter to embarrassment caused both him and Stans, and said "the press made preposterous and bizarre assumptions concerning the purpose" of routing the contribution through Mexico.

He said: "Even though the matter of return of the contributions was discussed with the committee immediately upon disclosure of the 'Watergate Affair,' I have deferred my request until now out of concern that resulting publicity might be adverse to our cause."

In its quarterly financial report to the Office of Federal Elections, Washington-based Nixon re-election committees showed a balance of \$4.7 million on hand.

Though the election had long passed, the committee received \$246,036 in contributions during January and February, the report showed.

In the case of the \$305,000 contribution by Walter Duncan, the Nixon committee paid back approximately the same amount to its bank, which had

purchased Duncan's IOU from the committee for cash.

Duncan, who earlier in 1972 had given a \$300,000 contribution for the Democratic presidential nomination bid of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), was one of the year's biggest listed political donors.

But at the same time he was making the donations, Duncan was embroiled in a series of financial, legal and governmental difficulties. Since then, the difficulties have escalated.

Duncan, formerly of Bryan, Tex., and now of San Antonio, has been involved in various land and development dealings.

Sources close to the Nixon re-election committee confirmed that Duncan wrote several weeks ago asking that his contribution be canceled because "I now find that I am unable to pay the note at maturity."