

\$2 Million in 'Secret' Donations**Nixon Fund Records****Washington**

Top officials of President Nixon's main fund-raising organization here, the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, solicited \$1 million to \$2 million in large cash contributions during 1971 and early in 1972 and then destroyed the records of the contributors.

The hidden transactions were reported by the former treasurer of the Nixon finance committee, Hugh W. Sloan Jr., in sworn statements disclosed yesterday.

Court sources here said that the transactions may have involved two violations of the federal Corrupt Practices Act, which was the controlling law at the time. The violations suggested were failure to disclose the contributions publicly and willful destruction of financial records.

The Sloan depositions, totaling 520 pages of testimony and others obtained from Maurice H. Stans, Mr. Nixon's former Secretary of Commerce who later was the chairman of the President's 1972 finance committee, were taken last October by lawyers for Common Cause, a public interest group that is suing to force full disclosure of all Nixon campaign gifts. The depositions had been under court-ordered seal until yesterday.

SECRET

There have been previous reports that three men — H. R. Haldeman, the former top assistant to the President; Stans, and Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's personal lawyer in Los Angeles — held secret campaign funds in their office safes totaling about \$1 million or more.

It was not clear from the disclosures yesterday how much, if any, of the concealed money newly revealed by Sloan overlapped those accounts.

Common Cause lawyers said that their research indi-

cated that the total secretly amassed by the Republican fund - raisers was \$22 million.

When the new federal Election Campaign Act became law on April 7, 1972, the finance committee reported that it then had \$10.2 million in "cash on hand." But it was not required to identify the donors.

This amount was included in the Common Cause estimate that the actual amount raised before April 7 was \$22 million — leaving \$11.8 million not only unidentified by donor but unreported as receipts.

The Common Cause estimate apparently was based on months of examination of Republican finance records, given up by the finance committee's lawyers under order of U.S. District Judge Joseph C. Waddy, who is hearing the Common Cause disclosure suit.

The records have been maintained under seal in a small room in the U.S. courthouse here, available only to a handful of lawyers in the case, as were the Sloan and Stans depositions.

Government sources, meanwhile, said that the Nixon finance organization had apparently "pre-spent" about \$5.5 million of its pre-April 7 money for advertising and direct-mail programs in an attempt to avoid reporting expenditures, as well as receipts, just before the new disclosure law took effect.

The last-minute flood of incoming cash and the hasty

expenditures, designed to avoid disclosure under the new law, created a "mad-house" atmosphere at Republican campaign headquarters here as April 7 approached, according to sworn statement of Sally J. Harmony, a former employee there.

GIFTS

Sloan's figures were given under pretrial questioning last October 24, 25 and 28 by two Common Cause lawyers,

Mitchell Rogovin and Kenneth Guido. Sloan testified that many of the finance committee's records of undisclosed cash gifts of "over \$1000" each and "a sort of day-to-day log of cash contributions" had been removed to "storage in New York because "we are an obvious target for political espionage, what have you."

"We were concerned with the security of those records," he said, "that they might fall into the hands of reporters and political opponents."

Although neither Sloan nor Stans was asked directly about the Watergate scandal, government investigators have said that the hundreds of thousands of dollars used to finance the Republicans' covert espionage and sabotage operations against the Democrats last year came from the cash donations Sloan was describing.

Because of conflicts in Sloan's statement and an earlier deposition taken from Stans, it was not clear who had ordered the destruction of the records.

"What kind of information would be found on the missing or destroyed documents?" Sloan was asked. He replied:

"The summary sheet of all contributions received in cash, as opposed to by check or securities, and the disbursements made from those funds."

Circumstantially, at least, it appeared from this that the documents destroyed had included all those covering what Sloan described as "disbursements in cash to individuals in a custodial context" — a total of about \$900,000. This amount matches approximately the funds alleged by government investigators to have been placed secretly in the "custody" of Nixon campaign aides assigned to "dirty trick" operations.

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Destroyed