

Jersey G. O. P. Says It's Puzzled By Executive Club Beneficiaries

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NEWARK, May 23—State Republican party officials said today that they did not know of the existence of two organizations to which the now defunct Executive Club of the Republican Party of New Jersey reported to the Federal Government it had given more than \$22,000.

The Executive Club, a secretive fund-raising organization that collected \$1,000 in dues from at least 149 business and industrial executives to "further the cause of Republicanism," is under investigation by state and Federal authorities in their continuing studies of Republican political financing in the state. The investigations so far have resumed in the indictment of three of the most influential figures in the 1969 election

campaign of Governor Cahill.

As part of its mandatory filing to the General Accounting Office in Washington last December the club listed an expenditure last Oct. 3 of \$11,000 to "Political Surveys and Analysis, Inc.," at 60 Park Place in Newark, to pay for a "statewide survey on political questions and candidates."

Horace Cumberland, the manager of the office building—the Military Park Building—here, said today he had no record of such an organization in his list of tenants.

State Assemblyman John H. Ewing, a Somerset County Republican who is controller of the State Republican Finance Committee, which is on the 10th floor of the same build-

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ing, said, "I never heard of it." Former Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll, chairman of the Republicans' state finance committee, also said he knew of no such organ-

Another contribution of \$6,371.65 was listed with the General Accounting Office as having been given to the "New Jersey Republican Convention Fund," also with 60 Park Place as its address, "to pay for expenses incurred by or on behalf of the New Jersey delegation to the Republican National Convention, Miami, Fla." This followed an earlier gift of \$5,000 for the same purpose.

Mr. Cumberland said there was no record of that group in records of past and present tenants. "We never wrote leases in either of those names," he said.

Mr. Ewing said the state finance committee had had nothing to do with expenses for the Republican convention last year. Governor Driscoll said he had not "heard of that one either." He said he had heard reports of contributions having been given to convention delegates to help defray living expenses, but he did not know, he said, "if they came from the Executive Club or anywhere else."

Emphatic in Denials

Both men were emphatic, however, in their contentions that neither organization was situated at 60 Park Place last year or that either of them was an adjunct — formal or ad hoc — of the Republican State Finance Committee.

The only vested officers of the Executive Club was unavailable for comment on either the New Jersey Republican Convention Fund or Political Surveys and Analysis, Inc.

A spokesman for the Republican state committee chairman, John E. Dimon, said in Trenton, was his understanding that portions of the Republican state committee and of its finance committee had joined together last year as the New Jersey

Committee for the Re-election of the President and that he believed there had been a convention fund. He said he could not be certain whether it had operated out of 60 Park Place or at 50 Park Place, which is the Robert Treat Hotel here.

As for Political Surveys and Analysis, Inc., the spokesman said, "I never heard of that one before."

William B. Colsey 3d, the Executive Club's chairman, has been indicted by a state grand jury on charges of bribery involving the alleged use of state funds and Suzanne Phillips Miller, identified as the club's treasurer, was cited by United States Attorney Herbert B. Stern Jr. yesterday as an unindicted conspirator in a scheme to falsify political contributions as business expenses.

Initial Scrutiny

Mr. Colsey was chairman of the Executive Club from its reported inception in April, 1971, until it went out of business last January, under pressure from Mr. Driscoll, who became state finance committee chairman and forced Mr. Colsey out of his fund raising role.

The club initially came under Federal scrutiny when 34 contributions totaling \$100,000 were distributed on a single day — last Sept. 11 — to 34 Committees to Re-elect the President around the country.

The club did not report these gifts initially to the Controller General and the General Accounting Office because Mr. Colsey said the Executive Club was not primarily a fund-raising vehicle.