

Filipino Aided Nixon Fund

By Morton Mintz

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The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President disclosed yesterday that an unidentified Philippine national contributed \$30,000 in cash "on behalf of himself and certain friends" last June 29.

The cash supplemented the minimum of \$210,000 that Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal lawyer, raised last summer, at the request of the White House, for the Watergate defendants or their attorneys.

The Finance Committee said that it returned the \$30,000 Philippine contribution "after a brief time" because it had obtained a new legal opinion questioning its right to accept donations from foreign nationals.

At the time, the commit-

tee told Congress' General Accounting Office, it was unaware of a Justice Department opinion of last Feb. 7 forbidding only contributions made "within" the United States by agents of foreign principals, such as corporations. The Committee did not say whether the Philippine contributor had tendered the donation 'within' the United States.

The disclosure of the \$30,000 gift, made in a quarterly report to the GAO, is expected to intensify concern on Capitol Hill about contributions to American elections by aliens who cannot vote in them.

Last week, the GAO's Phillip S. Hughes, testifying at a Senate Rules Committee hearing on election-law reforms, urged Congress not merely to clarify questions about contributions by al-

iens, but also to consider banning them.

Other disclosures in the report filed by the Finance Committee and its affiliated Media, Radio and Television Committees to Re-elect the President:

- Deputy Secretary of Defense William P. Clements Jr. contributed \$7,000 between March 1 and May 31 of this year. He was listed as chairman of the board of Sedco, Inc., in Dallas — the position he held until President Nixon nominated him last December. The committee spokesman had no explanation for the unusual post-election contributions, which were in the amount of \$1,000 on March 21 and \$6,000 on May 1. Clements could not be reached for comment.
- The Finance Committee

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said it spent \$137,493 in legal fees during the quarterly reporting period, but did not say what type of work was done for it by the nine law firms that got the money. Some of the firms have been representing the committee in both civil and criminal cases. "Because of the number of legal actions in which the committee is still involved, there will undoubtedly be continuing expenses for legal services," the report said.

• The committee turned over \$81,000 last July to assistant campaign director Frederick C. LaRue "in order to remove that amount from the campaign," on the advice of counsel Robert Mardian. The amount included \$18,000 collected before the disclosure law took effect, and \$63,000 in preferred contributions for which required information was lacking.

Of the \$63,000 total, \$50,000 was contributed by Frank Carroll for LeHigh Valley Cooperative Farmers, a Pennsylvania dairymen's group, as previously reported by The Washington Post. This sum was kept after the information was supplied but is only now being reported.

Another \$10,000 was from Charles D. Saunders, operator of Radio Station WSWG in Greenwood, Miss. It was given in June, which was

not reported and was returned to Saunders. In a phone interview, Saunders declined to say why the money was returned, describing himself as "naive" about such matters. The remaining \$3,000 came from Harvey Roffman and Calvin Fisher of Omaha, and was kept.

• Alexander Lankler, chairman of the Maryland Committee for the Re-election of the President, received a \$150,000 contribution from an unnamed Maryland resident in March, 1972 — before the disclosure

law became effective. He "exacted a commitment" that \$50,000 would be rechanneled back to his unit for the Salute to Agnew fund-raising event in May, 1972. The money was later repaid.

• Max Fisher of Detroit, an oil man and head of the Jews for President Nixon organization, contributed \$125,000 in cash before the disclosure law was in effect, the committee said. He "pledged another \$125,000, which he later gave early in 1973 in the form of securities."

• Former GOP Gov. Tim Babcock of Montana, now an official of Occidental Petroleum, turned over \$25,000 in contributions on Nov. 3 without identifying the donors. The committee official who received the money left, leading to "an inadvertent lapse in follow-up" as to

the identity of the donors.

On Nov. 28, according to the Finance Committee report, White House Counsel John W. Dean III asked Finance Committee chairman Maurice H. Stans to give \$22,000 of the Babcock contributions to an aide to Dean, Fred Fielding, "to replenish a White House fund of \$350,000 held for polling purposes, which had been depleted by . . . \$22,000."

On Jan. 17, Babcock delivered an additional \$14,000 to Stans. This sum, along with the left over \$3,000, was given to Fred LaRue, as reimbursement for payments that had been made at the request of the Finance Committee out of funds he controlled.

Yesterday's report names the contributors of the total of \$39,000 as five Montana men including Babcock, who was listed for \$10,000.

• As the GAO had reported on May 20, the Finance Committee yesterday confirmed giving \$75,000 to what it described as an "urgent White House project" — the raising of funds for the Watergate defendants or their lawyers.

The committee said Kalmbach told Stans the project was not related to the campaign and had the approval of unnamed "high authorities."

The committee said it did not consider the money to be "committee funds" because it consisted of \$45,000 Kalmbach had advanced earlier, and the briefly held Philippine contribution of \$30,000.