

A Probe of Leftover GOP Cash

SFChronicle JUN 20 1973
Washington

The Senate Watergate Committee plans to investigate the personal finances of the participants in the bugging and cover-up to determine whether large sums of Republican campaign money were misappropriated or in other ways wrongfully used, Senate sources said yesterday.

This relatively unexplored area of the Watergate scandal emerged publicly yesterday with reports that John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel, might have "borrowed" \$4000 from a cash fund — initially set up by Republican campaign contributions — to pay for his wedding and honeymoon last October.

The Senate committee has been quietly subpoenaing personal bank records and other data, the sources said, in an attempt to determine whether there was personal profit-taking among the involved members of the Committee for the Re-election of the President and the White House.

"It's not that I have no faith in human nature," said one member of the Senate committee in a telephone interview. "It's just that it's quite inconceivable to me that with \$1.7 million in cash lying around, no one took advantage of it."

Re-election committee officials have testified during the televised hearings that \$1.7 million in cash was raised before April 7, 1972, for use in the presidential campaign. Other officials have estimated the over-all Republican cash flow at more than \$2 million during the campaign, including more than \$200,000 collected last summer and later used to help pay off the Watergate defendants in return for their silence.

Most of the specific cash disbursements during the campaign have not been accounted for, including the payoff fund, said by some to have reached more than \$450,000. *New York Times*