

Illegal Gift

-Eastern

Didn't Pay

MIAMI — (AP) — Eastern Airlines said yesterday that attempts were made in the spring of 1972 to get it to make an illegal contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Jonathan Rinehart, senior Eastern vice president, said the company flatly rejected the suggestion, made by a Republican campaign official to Eastern Chairman Floyd D. Hall.

Federal law makes it a crime punishable by up to two years in prison with a \$10,000 fine to give or receive campaign gifts from the funds of corporations, labor unions or banks.

George A. Spater, chairman of the board of American Airlines, confessed Friday that his company illegally gave the Nixon campaign \$55,000 in 1971 and 1972.

Spater said the money was solicited by Herbert W. Kalmbach, Nixon's personal lawyer at the time and trusted fundraiser.

"No specific figure was mentioned," Rinehart said. "But it was clear we were being asked to make a contribution which was against the law. We gave them a direct clear 'No'."

The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday that Nixon fund raisers in California used a quota system on prospective donors, seeking one percent of the net worth of wealthy persons or corporate executives.

Rinehart said the Committee for the Re-election of the President asked Eastern to distribute campaign literature to its 32,000 employees soliciting donations for Nixon and the Democrats.

"We refused this suggestion, also," Rinehart said.