

# Weicker Concedes He Got Aid From White House Fund in '70

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WASHINGTON, July 11 — Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, acknowledged today that he had received a substantial contribution from a secret White House political fund during his successful 1970 campaign for the Senate.

Mr. Weicker denied that his receipt of the funds — which reported totaled \$65,000, raised in part by Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's former personal attorney — was in any way improper. "Everything was properly reported," the Senator said, according to The Associated Press.

The Washington Star-News reported today that Senator Weicker was one of more than 20 Republican recipients of an estimated \$1.5-million in cashier's checks that was distributed to Republican candidates in 1970.

The Star-News quoted Senate Watergate committee investigators as saying that the fund-raising operation — said to have been operated out of a basement backroom in a Washington townhouse — was under the direct supervision of H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff.

## 'The Public Institute'

The existence of the White House fund-raising operation had been previously reported. The Washington newspaper said that the operation used a dummy name, "The Public Institute," to serve as a cover for the distribution of the money. The money was reportedly handled by Jack A. Gleason, a former White House aide who now is connected with a consulting firm here.

Mr. Gleason was said to be unavailable for comment today,

but his office read newsmen a statement disavowing any responsibility for, or control of, the operation.

The statement said:

"The scope of my participation in the 1970 election campaign was restricted to the distribution of campaign funds for various Republican candidates, on the instruction of other individuals. My duties, therefore, did not include any determination as to the sources of funding nor as to its ultimate recipients."

The Star-News said it had been unable to learn the names of the donors responsible for contributing the \$1.5-million, which raises the amount of pre-1972 Republican cash to at least \$3.5-million, including leftover funds from the 1968 Presidential race.

## Weicker Leaves Hearing

Senator Weicker, a member of the Senate Watergate committee, was listening to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell's testimony this morning when he was told of the Star-News article.

He immediately left the hearings to tell newsmen that his Washington Finance Committee received about \$78,000 in donations during 1970, all of which, he said, was eventually transferred to his campaign committee in Connecticut. Mr. Weicker also said that the contributions were fully reported to the Secretary of State's office in Connecticut.

The 1970 campaign finance laws permitted the setting up of finance committees in the District of Columbia, which did not have to report individual contributors. It was a major loophole that was plugged by the Federal Elections Practices Act of 1971.