

A Nixon Fund Bid to Chrysler

Detroit

President Nixon's personal attorney suggested to Chrysler Corp. chairman Lynn Townsend in 1971 that his firm's executives contribute a specific amount to the President's re-election campaign, Chrysler confirmed yesterday.

Responding to a story in the Detroit Free Press, Chrysler denied, however, that Herbert Kalmbach, then Mr. Nixon's personal attorney, asked for a gift directly from the auto firm.

It is illegal for a corporation to make a political contribution.

"Mr. Townsend believes Mr. Kalmbach suggested an amount that he hoped might be contributed by Chrysler executives, but Mr. Townsend does not recall what the amount was," Chrysler said in a statement.

"At no time during the Aug. 6, 1971, meeting did Mr. Kalmbach suggest that Chrysler Corp. should make any contribution to the President's campaign," the company said.

AID

The Free Press reported that Kalmbach asked for direct aid from Chrysler, but was turned down immediately.

Chrysler did not comment directly on the Free Press allegation that it later "delivered a thick sheaf of checks from individual executives to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President" before a new campaign finance disclosure law went into effect April 7, 1972.

The firm said, however, that it followed its normal policy of collecting checks from its executives and delivering them to the party or candidate of their choice.

REQUEST

The newspaper story also

quoted Washington sources as saying American Motors and Ford as well as Chrysler were on a special list of corporations which were expected to contribute heavily

to the Nixon campaign.

Spokesmen for American Motors and Ford were quoted as saying they had received no requests for direct aid, however. General Motors also said it had received no such request.

Henry Ford II personally contributed \$50,000 to president Nixon's re-election campaign about three weeks before the law requiring disclosure of such contributions became effective, Ford's lawyer told the Washington Post yesterday.

The contributions in mid-March 1972 came from Ford's "own pocketbook," Attorney Pierre V. Heftler emphasized.

In Los Angeles, the president of Union Oil Co. said he turned down a request in February, 1972, to contribute \$100,000 to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

Fred L. Hartley said he was solicited personally by Maurice Stans, finance chairman of the Committee to re-elect the President, and Los Angeles industrialist Leonard K. Firestone, a prominent Republican supporter.

American Airlines president George Spater said last week Kalmbach asked his firm for a \$100,000 contribution at a time when American was seeking approval for a merger with Western Airlines. American and its officers gave \$75,000, Spater said.

Eastern Airlines also has said Kalmbach asked them for money, but the airline reported it refused.

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