

Stone Says Nixon Gives Him Credit for Election

By Morton Mintz

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President Nixon twice told Chicago insurance magnate W. Clement Stone that he would not have been elected in 1968 had it not been for Stone's gifts of money—\$2.8 million—and of the philosophy known as Positive Mental Attitude.

"On two occasions," Stone said, the President "gave me the highest honor that I will probably ever receive, from my viewpoint. He called me aside and said, 'Clem, you know and I know that I wouldn't be here if it weren't for you.'"

Stone, the President's principal contributor, made the disclosure on Kup's Show, a television program broadcast in Chicago by WMAQ last Sunday. Yesterday, an aide to Stone said the President expressed his thanks to Stone at Camp David, Md., after the 1968 election and again later at a dinner.

On the program, Stone recalled that he once said he would have spent any amount of money to elect or reelect "one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of all Presidents."

"How much were you ready to go for?" asked columnist Irv Kupcinet, who conducts the program.

"Ten million dollars," replied Stone, who gave the President \$2 million in 1972, for a four-year total of \$4.8 million.

"Now, keep this in mind," Stone said on May 28 in an interview with Michael Ryan of Granada Television in Great Britain. "Everything is relative. With a family worth in those days [the 1960s.] better than \$450 million, what's a million or two, particularly when you can change the course of history to the principles for which you stand."

Stone emphasized that he also helped Mr. Nixon by introducing him to Positive Mental Attitude (PMA) in 1964, when the President was national chairman of the Boys' Clubs of America and Stone was a director.

Every member of the organization's board was exposed to the PMA concept, and "I know for a fact" that Mr. Nixon "and his family have been exposed to it, Stone told Kupcinet. "I know that the books [on PMA] are in the White House."

"I found this terrible change in this man, this drastic change, almost a 180-degree turn from somewhat of a negative personality, to a positive personality," Stone continued. "I worked with him. He was exposed to PMA . . . and I realized that perhaps this was my one chance in an entire lifetime in which I could change the course of history for the better."

Praising the President as "a man of integrity, Stone indicated to Kupcinet that he had been disillusioned little if at all by the Watergate scandals.

"Previous to the Watergate hearings, I predicted that under the PMA philosophy with every adversity there is a seed of an equivalent greater benefit, Stone said.

He went on to predict "that the revealing of these things in the Watergate hearings "will be one of the most wholesome things that could have happened, and that Mr. Nixon in time will come up with a Mandatory, enforceable code of ethics that will try to prevent a recurrence of Watergate at any level of government."

Stone said he believed that "not a dime" of his 4.8 million went to any of the improper acts associated with Watergate. He said he based his belief on the fact that rather than being solicited, he "provided the seed money. I was the one that



W. CLEMENT STONE
... gave \$2.8 million

was going to change the history of the world, so they didn't have to ask me. So I got in early."

During the 1968 campaign, Stone said, Maurice H. Stans, Mr. Nixon's Chief fund-raiser, who has since been charged with obstruction of justice in an indictment returned in New York City, and Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's personal attorney, came to him for advice.

Stone said he told them "that if you are aiming for a high objective you must go after large sums."

Replying to a question about the disclosure that the President taped all of his phone calls and conversations, Stone said, "I think it is perfectly proper for him to have done so for many, many reasons," including the need for "historical evidence."

In the British TV interview, Stone said that when he contributed to Mr. Nixon's 1968 campaign he had let it be known that "under no circumstances would I accept any appointment . . . All I wanted" was good government.

"My sole purpose was to be part of a great man's life," Stone told interviewer Ryan.

Last year, however, British newspapers printed reports that Walter Annenberg might retire as ambassador to Britain (he hasn't) and that Stone might succeed him. Stone has numerous ties to England, including three grandchildren who were born there.

"At first, I denied that I would accept, and I was sincere," Stone said. "But I got to thinking that Mr. Nixon could not run for a third term, and if the people of England wanted me, why shouldn't I be gracious and accept?"

Stone said he made errors concerning his expenditures in behalf of three candidates in the 1970 elections. In a recent listing, he said he made a \$300,000 loan to Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons-R-N.Y.) but found in a check of records that in fact he merely had guaranteed bank loans made to Buckley committees in a total amount of up to \$100,000.

The list also showed a loan of \$22,000 still outstanding to Jay Wilkinson, a Republican congressional candidate in Oklahoma. The loan actually was for \$10,000 and was promptly repaid, Stone now says.

The final error was in listing a \$10,000 contribution for the Senate candidacy of Rep. William C. Cramer (R-Fla.), when the actual gift was \$2,500, Stone said.

In another campaign financing development, The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer has reported that Sen. Robert Taft Jr. (R-Ohio) received \$15,000 in 1970 from a secret funding operation conducted in a Washington townhouse basement by Jack A. Gleason, who was detached for the purpose by the White House staff.

The Plain Dealer's Washington bureau said it found the \$15,000 contribution to Taft in a study of campaign financing reports filed with the Ohio secretary of state.