

The Suspect Nixon Money

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — President Nixon's 1972 re-election committee has returned a total of \$900,000 in suspect contributions, and there may be more.

While claiming the committee is unaware of any corporate contributions that have not been returned, spokesman DeVan L. Shumway said the decision to check large cash contributions was made Friday after two more corporations disclosed that they had contributed a total of \$140,000.

Shumway said the committee had returned the money—\$100,000 to Gulf Oil Corp. and \$40,000 to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. He did not say why the committee waited to act on the possibility of further corporate gifts until the Gulf and Goodyear contributions were made public.

Fines, Jail

Federal law prohibits an individual from donating or receiving campaign gifts from corporations, labor unions or banks and provides for fines up to \$10,000

\$900,000 Is Returned

and two years' imprisonment for violators.

Since the November election, the Committee for the Re-election of the President has returned funds to three corporate and four individual contributors. The committee reportedly has several million dollars unspent from the campaign.

Two of the corporate contributors have told Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox that they made the contributions after being pressured by Nixon supporters. At least one of the corporations was involved in action that needed government approval.

Several Firms

Two of the four individual contributors whose money was returned were involved in legal difficulties.

A spokesman for Cox said Friday several firms have voluntarily notified the prosecutor of illegal contribu-

tions. He declined to name them.

Cox has said a company's willingness to come forward with information about such contributions will be weighed when legal proceedings are considered.

But the spokesman noted, "If a corporation's officers disclose illegal corporate contributions only after our investigation focuses on that particular corporation, one might question how voluntary that decision is."