

Cox moves on

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WASHINGTON — Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox filed criminal charges against Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. and American Airlines today for making a total of \$125,000 in illegal corporate contributions to President Nixon's 1972 campaign.

At the same time, Cox charged corporate officials of 3M and Goodyear with misdemeanor offenses in making the contributions.

It was the first time corporate officials have been charged with criminal violation of the federal law banning the political contributions from corporate funds.

"As a matter of prosecutive policy and common sense, the effective enforcement of a statute prohibiting corporate contributions to political campaigns requires, absent the most unusual circumstances, that the responsible corporate officer be charged as well as the corporation," Cox said in an accompanying policy statement. "Without such a policy, the statute will have little deterrent effect."

A criminal information was filed at U.S. District Court in Washington against American Airlines, which admitted it contributed \$55,000. A two-count information was filed in U.S. District Court in St. Paul against 3M, which contributed \$30,000, and Harry Heltzer, its chairman and chief executive officer. And at U.S. District Court in Cleveland, a

Nixon backers

two-count information was filed against Goodyear, which gave \$20,000, and Russell DeYoung, its former board chairman.

Non-willful violation of the campaign contribution law by a corporation carries a maximum \$5000 fine, while violation by a corporate officer carries a maximum \$1000 fine and one year in prison.

American, 3M and Goodyear were among seven major companies which have admitted making illegal campaign contributions last year.

Cox said that no executives of American Airlines were

charged because it was the first company to come forward voluntarily.

"I believe that the example of American Airlines had something to do with prompting others to come forward with voluntary disclosures of corporate contributions," Cox said.

The other companies which have come forward are Gulf Oil, Phillips Petroleum and Ashland Petroleum.

In addition, Braniff Airways has admitted that corporate funds were donated by its employes but the corporation has said that the money represented loans to the individuals and has been repaid.