

Cash Refunded

Big Donation by Would-Be Envoy

Washington

Multi-millionaire sportsman Cornelius V. (Sonny) Whitney has told Senate Watergate committee investigators of making a secret \$250,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign when he expected to be nominated as ambassador to Spain, the Washington Post learned yesterday.

Whitney did not get the nomination but did get a refund.

A Senate source said that Whitney, who operates a famed racing stable in Lexington, Ky., and is president of Whitney Industries, made an unscheduled appearance on October 19 to volunteer his account to committee staff members.

The Finance Committee to re-elect the President disclosed the contribution and refund, without comment, on September 28 when, under a court order, it filed the names of persons who gave to Mr. Nixon before a disclosure law became effective in April, 1972.

RECEPTION

The finance committee said it received the \$250,000 on June 8, 1971. Four months later, Spanish ambassador and Mrs. Jaime Arguelles gave a reception at the Spanish Embassy at which they were repeatedly asked if Whitney was to be nominated. They were repeatedly asked if Whitney was to be nominated.

"That's what everybody is telling us," Arguelles replied.

Whitney said at the time that his name had been put forward for the post and that "they are checking me out."

The date the \$250,000 was returned was given by the fi-

nance committee as Dec. 2, 1971. Several weeks later, a news report from Madrid told of "the general disappointment" that Whitney would not become the American ambassador.

ROGERS

Yesterday, reliable sources said that then Secretary of State William P. Rogers had declined a request by unidentified persons to recommend Whitney's nomination. Rogers' reasons were not disclosed.

Rogers told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 30, however, that the common practice of awarding ambassadorships to large campaign contributors was now of concern.

"The President 'agrees,'" he said.

Later, committee chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem.-Ark.), sent Rogers a set of proposed ground rules under which anyone who contributed more than 5000 to a political candidate automatically would be rejected by the committee for an ambassadorial nomination.



CORNELIUS WHITNEY
Rumors about Madrid

should not be for sale," the draft guidelines say.

Whitney could not be reached yesterday.

Whitney, according to the source said it was because he was a prospective nominee that the money was returned.

The source said Whitney understood he finally was turned down because of his age. He will be 74 in February.

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