

2 Big Oil Firms Admit Illegal Gifts

Washington

Two major oil corporations and a top executive of each pleaded guilty yesterday to having made illegal campaign contributions of \$100,000 apiece with corporate funds to the 1972 re-election campaign of President Nixon.

One of the companies, the Gulf Oil Corp., also pleaded guilty to having given smaller illegal gifts of \$15,000 to Representative Wilbur D. Mills of Arkansas and \$10,000 to Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington, both of whom were unsuccessful candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination last year.

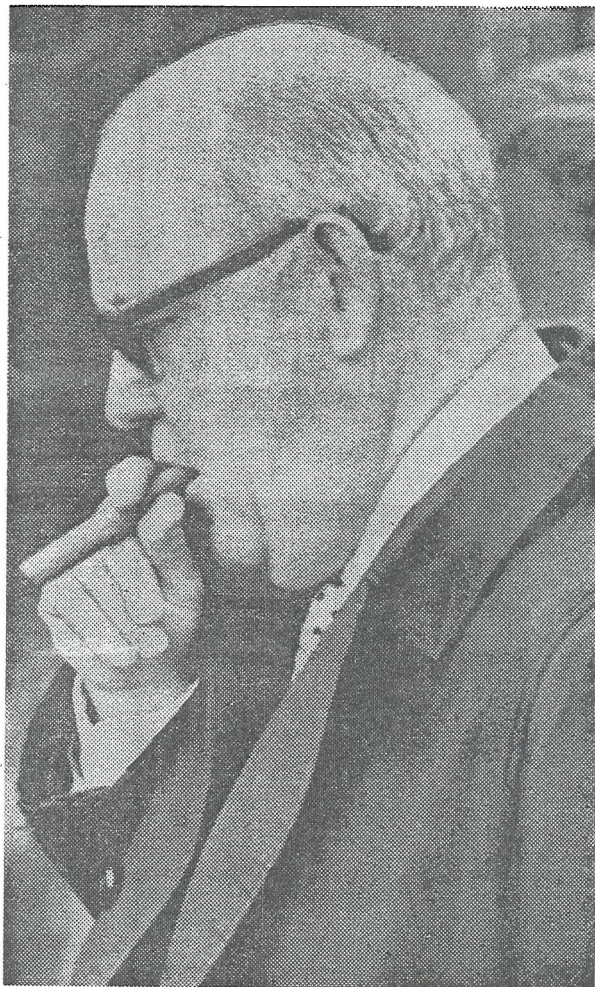
The \$200,000 in oil company contributions from Gulf and the Ashland Oil Co. to Mr. Nixon's campaign had been known since last summer, when both corporations — under investigative pressure — publicly acknowledged violations of the federal law forbidding the gift of any campaign donation directly from a corporate treasury or a labor union.

The disclosures involving Mills, the powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Jackson, the Senate Interior Committee chairman, were new.

RETURN

Jackson's press aide, Brian Corcoran, said the Washington Democrat had not been aware that his \$10,000 contribution from Gulf's Washington vice president had come from corporate funds. Jackson's 1972 campaign treasurer, Stanley Gollub of Seattle "is preparing to return the money," the Senator's press aide said.

Oscar E. (Gene) Goss,



AP Wirephoto

GULF OIL'S CLAUDE C. WILD JR.
He pleaded guilty to \$100,000 contribution

Mills' administrative assistant, said of the illegal \$15,000 gift that Mills "is seeking information from the company as to whether the company feels refund is in order." He said that Mills would "make a refund from his personal account" if asked to do so.

In addition to the \$10,000 Jackson refund announced yesterday, the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President also has returned a total of \$365,000 in publicly acknowledged illegal corporate contributions to the 1967 Republican campaign.

GIFTS

The Republican gifts were \$55,000 from American Airlines, for which the company was fined \$5000; \$100,000 each from Gulf and Ashland

Oil; \$40,000 from the Good-year Tire and Rubber Co., for which the company was fined \$5000; \$40,000 from Braniff Airlines, for which the company was fined \$5000, and \$30,000 from the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co., which brought a fine of \$3000.

A seventh company, Phillips Petroleum, has acknowledged an additional, illegal \$100,000 contribution to the Nixon campaign for a known total of \$465,000, but has not been brought into court as yet to make a formal plea.

DISCLOSURE

Neither Jackson nor Mills had joined in the general, voluntary disclosure of campaign gifts and their donors made by other Democratic presidential contenders early in 1972, before the April 7 effective date of the new federal election campaign act.

Mr. Nixon's campaign finance organization also refused to make any pre-April 7 disclosures until forced to do so this year through a lawsuit by Common Cause, the citizen lobbying organization.

The charges against the Gulf Oil Corp. and its vice president and chief Washington representative, Claude C. Wild Jr., and the Ashland Oil Co. and its board chairman, Orin E. Atkins, were filed formally and scheduled for immediate plea hearings by prearrangement with the defendants and the Watergate prosecution office of Leon Jaworski.