

Oil Panel's Gifts To Nixon Assayed

By Morton Mintz

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Members of the government's oldest advisory committee on oil matters gave 4,800 times as much money to President Nixon's re-election campaign as they gave to that of his Democratic opponent, Sen. George McGovern (S.D.), according to a tabulation prepared by Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.).

The advisory committee is the National Petroleum Council, founded in 1946 to advise the Interior Department on petroleum policy and to develop statistics on energy needs and resources. These statistics frequently are adopted by the government as its own—a current concern of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Of the 125 persons who are currently members of the council, 70, or 56.8 per cent, contributed a total of \$1,202,248 to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, Aspin said.

McGovern got \$250, all of it from one member, J. J. Simmon. Candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination fared about the same.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.) was listed for \$500 from a Standard Oil of Ohio executive and \$200 from the chairman of Gulf Oil. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (Maine) got \$112.50 from the McGovern contributor, Simmons. Gov. George Wallace got \$500 from Arch Rowan.

The tabulation listed no contributions at all from council members to two other candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (Ark.) chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which writes tax laws, and Sen. Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), chairman of the investigations subcommittee.

Gulf Oil pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in November to having made illegal corporate contributions of \$15,000 to Mills and \$10,000 to Jackson, as well as \$100,000 to the Nixon organization. All said they had



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... prepares tabulation

been unaware of the illegal source.

The Nixon group refunded the money, Jackson said he would, and, as of last month, was trying to raise money to do so. Mills said he would make a refund if Gulf requested it. He wrote a check after The Washington Post queried an aide about the matter.

The Aspin list of Nixon contributions included large sums given before April 7, 1972, when a strict election financing disclosure law became effective.

Contributions of \$100,000 each were listed for council members Orin E. Atkins, chairman of Ashland Oil, and W. W. Keeler, former chairman of Phillips Petroleum. They pleaded guilty in Federal Court in November to having contributed the money illegally from corporate funds.

The largest single contributor was John Shaheen, of Shaheen Natural Resources, listed for \$107,000.

Substantial contributions also were recorded for the chairman or top officers of leading oil companies who are on the council. The companies include ARCO, Shell, Sun, Getty, Union, Occidental, Standard of California, Pennzoil, Amerada Hess, Tenneco, Cities Service, Exxon, Standard of Ohio, Mobil and Standard of Indiana.