

Dairy Pledge To Nixon Is Explained

Washington

A California attorney for the dairy lobby says the \$2 million he pledged to President Nixon in 1970 as a campaign contribution was a figure "pulled out of the air."

The attorney, Patrick J. Hillings, a former Republican congressman from California who succeeded Mr. Nixon in the House, said he intended "no commitment, no quid pro quo" when he wrote the President about dairy industry campaign support in December, 1970.

"The \$2 million figure was an attention-getter," Hillings said in an interview. "The case for government help for dairymen was based on sound legal and economic grounds, as well as political considerations involving the farm vote. Money considerations didn't really figure into it."

Fifteen days after Hillings' letter, Mr. Nixon reduced dairy import quotas in two major areas, in line with industry wishes. The White House said in a white paper issued earlier this month that the President's actions were less favorable than those recommended by the U.S. Tariff Commission.

Los Angeles Times