

# Memo to Haldeman Told of Dairy Fund

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H.R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, was advised by a deputy in 1971 that dairy industry officials were expected to pay \$90,000 per month toward President Nixon's re-election campaign, according to federal court papers.

The monthly "commitment" figure was contained in a Sept. 11, 1971, memo to Haldeman from Gordon C. Strachan, an attorney who served as his liaison with Mr. Nixon's campaign organization. Strachan wrote the memo six months after the President had raised dairy industry price supports.

The memo became available yesterday as part of a consumer lawsuit that has been filed against dairy interests by Ralph Nader and other plaintiffs. The documents conflict with an impression that the White House and some dairy officials have sought to give.

In a white paper released last month, the White House said financial support by milk producers was not a factor in Mr. Nixon's decision to raise government milk price supports in March, 1971, although

this action occurred after the first of an eventual \$427,500 from dairy interests flowed into the Nixon campaign.

Earlier this month, Patrick J. Hillings, a former California Republican congressman who served as an attorney for dairy officials, said an industry pledge of \$2 million for Mr. Nixon's campaign was a figure "pulled out of the air."

Hillings said there was "No commitment, no quid pro quo" when he wrote the president about this intended campaign support in December, 1970.

The Strachan memo, entitled "Milk Money," said: "Lee Nunn reports that \$232,500 has been realized. This is slightly more than one-half of the amount that should have been delivered on the commitment" of \$90,000 dollars per month.

Nunn was a campaign fundraiser.

Strachan's Washington attorney, John M. Bray, said he could not explain the reference to "90,000 dollars per month" except that Strachan "only relayed information to Haldeman that other people had given him. Strachan, so far as I know, never talked directly to any dairy officials."