

Wallace Foe Reportedly Got GOP Money

Associated Press

Postmaster General Winton Blount arranged for the funneling of Republican money into a Democratic primary in an effort to defeat George C. Wallace's 1970 bid for governor of Alabama, a former White House aide says.

Lawrence Higby, onetime executive assistant to H. R. Haldeman, then President Nixon's chief of staff, described himself in a court deposition as a relay man in authorizing the GOP money. Wallace beat former Gov. Albert Brewer in the primary.

In Montgomery, Ala., where he heads one of the South's largest construction companies and allied enterprises,

Blount was reported tied up in a meeting yesterday and unavailable for comment.

Higby said he would call presidential lawyer and fundraiser Herbert Kalmbach, saying that Haldeman was authorizing "another \$100,000" for Brewer's campaign.

In the deposition, Maurice Dunie, lawyer for the Democratic National Committee in its Watergate suit against the Republicans, asked Higby whether the distribution idea originated with Haldeman's office or with Kalmbach.

"I think the idea for distribution, at least the way I became aware of it, was that Postmaster General—or former Postmaster General—

Blount called and asked that it be done," Higby replied.

Asked by Dunie whom Blount would call, Higby said:

"I think the first time he called Haldeman and then I think the second time he called me and I transferred on his message to Haldeman and Haldeman said, 'Okay, call Kalmbach and set it up.'"

Higby did not say how much money allegedly was called

for by Blount, now an Alabama businessman.

Elsewhere in the 249-page deposition, Higby said Haldeman kept a two-inch-thick envelope containing \$100 and \$20 bills in a safe. Higby said he understood the money was to be used for moving expenses of the White House staff and said he dispersed \$1,000 or \$1,500 to two persons for that purpose.

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