

\$1.5-Million Fund for Lobbying Is Reported by 2 Dairy Groups

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—Two dairy industry lobbying groups, whose pledges to President Nixon's re-election campaign stirred lawsuits and investigations, have reported that they have more than \$1.5-million available for further political activity.

The two groups, Associated Milk Producers Inc., of San Antonio, Tex., and Mid-America Dairies, of Springfield, Mo., reported \$1.325-million and \$251,000 respectively in cash on hand, as of Jan. 31; in statements filed with Clerks of the House and Senate and the General Accounting Office. Under Federal election laws such reports are required regularly and the latest cover the Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1973 period.

Taken together, the reports list contributions of almost \$50,000 to 48 political committees and individuals during the same period. At the time there was almost no national election activity.

Of the gifts, 35 went to Democrats, 12 to Republicans and one to the Democrat Farmer-Labor Party. Recipients ranged from state legislators to Presidential hopefuls and included one member of the Senate Watergate committee, which has been investigating political contribution by the dairy industry.

The statements appear to support President Nixon's contention, in his Jan. 8 White Paper on dairy industry gifts, that Democrats in Congress were the object of much attention by milk industry lobbyists.

The reports cover two of the three major political committees of the dairy industry: the Agricultural and Dairy Educational Political Trust (ADEPT) set up by Mid-America, and the Committee for Thorough Agricultural Political Education (TAPE) set up by Associated.

A report on the third committee, the Trust for Special Agricultural Community Education (SPACE), set up by Dairy-

men Inc., apparently has not yet been filed, according to the General Accounting Office.

The largest single contribution reported was \$10,000 to the Democratic National Committee on Oct. 19, from the Educational Political Trust.

The committee for political education reported contributing \$5,000 to Mississippi State University's agricultural economics department on Dec. 14 to set up a John Stennis Chair in political science. Mr. Stennis is a Democratic Senator from Mississippi.

Another \$5,000 was given by ADEPT to the Talmadge Campaign Committee on Sept. 26, according to the report. Senator Herman E. Talmadge, Democrat of Georgia, is a member of the Senate Watergate committee and chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Senator Talmadge voted last month with other Democrats on the Watergate committee, to continue its investigation of the dairy industry's political contributions.

Two recipients of funds from the dairy group returned the contributions, according to the report.

Senator Robert Dole, Republican of Kansas and former Republican National Chairman, who received \$6,000 from TAPE through "Boosters for Dole" in Arlington, Va., on Sept. 24, returned it on Oct. 30.

A \$5,000 contribution to the Anderson Volunteer Committee, listed as given on Sept. 1 for Gov. Wendell R. Anderson of Minnesota, a Democrat, was listed as returned on Dec. 13.

A gift of \$2,500 was listed as spent on a "Connally-Taylor Dinner" last Dec. 21. The dinner featured former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally and was a fund-raising event for Representative Gene Taylor, Republican of Missouri.

Mr. Taylor said today that the money had come from "a voluntary group of farmers" who support candidates much as organized labor does.