

Kalmbach Guilty of 2 Violations

Washington

Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal lawyer, pleaded guilty yesterday to allegations that he helped run an illegal congressional campaign committee in 1970 and that he promised an ambassador a better assignment for a \$100,000 campaign contribution.

In pleading guilty to a two-count information filed with Chief Judge John J. Sirica in United States District Court, Kalmbach became the closest associate of President Nixon yet to face criminal penalties in the Watergate-related investigations of special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

The two charges, the first a felony and the second a misdemeanor, are punishable by a maximum of three years in prison and \$11,000 in fines.

In a letter filed with the court, Jaworski said Kalmbach might be required as a government witness or might be an unindicted co-conspirator in other Watergate-connected cases. In exchange for his cooperation and full disclosure of "all relevant information and documents," the letter said, other possible Watergate charges against Kalmbach have been dropped.

Kalmbach, 52, of Newport Beach, Calif., had handled a number of controversial and sensitive matters for Mr. Nixon over the last five

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years. Among these were the purchase of the San Clemente estate and the President's income taxes.

He also raised millions of dollars for Mr. Nixon's campaigns, handled the controversial dairy producers contributions to the 1972 reelection drive, took part in the payment of money to the original seven Watergate defendants and their lawyers as part of the coverup and handled payments to a confessed political saboteur, Donald H. Segretti.

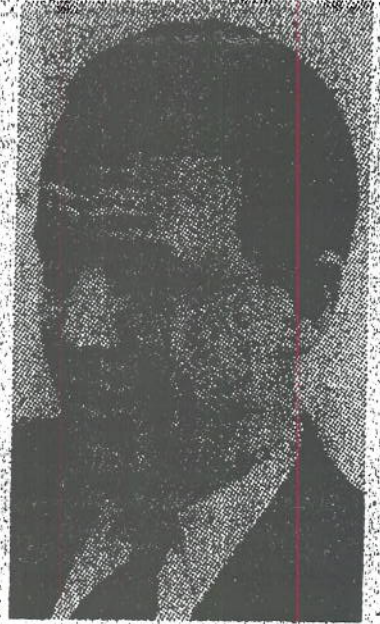
The felony charge grew from the old federal Corrupt Practices Act, which was in force in 1970 when the illegal committee was set up. Because it had no chairman, no treasurer and filed no reports of its activity, the Republican committee was in violation of that act, the special prosecutor alleged.

The assistant special prosecutor, Charles F. C. Ruff, told Sirica that beginning in March, 1970, "three members of the staff of the executive office of the President" formed the committee to support candidates for the House and Senate. He said a fourth individual, also unnamed, was put in charge of day-to-day operations.

Kalmbach raised pledges of \$2.8 million to support the committee's work, Ruff said, and an additional \$1.15 million was contributed by one unidentified person.

Ruff said that on orders from a fifth individual, also unnamed, moneys pledged to the committee would be sent directly from the donors to individual candidates in 19 states.

Though Ruff did not identify it as such, the description



HERBERT KALMBACH
Mr. Nixon's lawyer

fits that of Operation Townhouse or "The Public Institute." This was a group that several sources have identified as having been set up

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by the late Murray Chotiner, Harry S. Dent and Charles W. Colson, who all were on the White House staff at the time.

Jack A. Gleason, another former White House aide, was in charge of the day-to-day operations and instructions on how to spend the funds were said to have come from H. R. Haldeman, the President's former chief of staff.

More than three years ago the Associated Press identified seven United States ambassadors who were listed on public records as having sent money through Gleason's operation to Senator J. Glenn Beall (Rep - Md.),

who was seeking election in 1970.

The ambassadors were Walter H. Annenberg, Britain; Kenneth Franzheim II, New Zealand; Shelby C. Davis, Switzerland; John O. Humes, Austria; John D. J. Moore, Ireland; J. William Middendorf II, then ambassador to The Netherlands and now under secretary of the Navy; and Kingdom Gould Jr., The Netherlands.

The second criminal information against Kalmbach is a misdemeanor. It was explained to Sirica by the associate special prosecutor, Thomas H. McBride.

McBride said that on Sept. 16, 1970, J. Fife Symington Jr., Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, offered Kalmbach \$100,000 "on the condition" that he be appointed ambassador to one of five European nations instead of Trinidad and Tobago.

McBride said Kalmbach placed a call to an unidentified member of the White House staff and "received assurances."

"The pledge was firm. The deal was made," McBride told the judge.

Subsequently, he said, Symington's wife sent a check for \$50,000 to the 1970 committee to support congressional candidates, McBride said, and the remainder to the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President "or one of its satellite committees" in 1972.

McBride said the donation did no good, however. Symington was not nominated.

"Kalmbach offered the money back, which was refused," McBride said.

Symington, a first cousin of Senator Stuart Symington