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Mrs. Chotiner Replies to a Jack Anderson Column

The Jack Anderson column, of Feb. 15, featured in The Washington Post was brought to my attention by a friend, with the comment, "Isn't that Anderson ever going to let your husband alone?" When I looked at the column my first reaction was the same: why is it necessary now to rehash old stories and continue attacking his name?

However, upon a closer reading of the column I find that, in addition to the incredibly bad taste and total lack of compassion or human kindness towards his family, the statement pertaining to my husband is totally and completely fallacious.

My husband (nor Mr. Rebozo, as far as I know) never bought \$21,000 worth of tickets for Senator Gurney's cocktail party, or anyone else's. My husband frequently contributed small amounts to many Republican senator's and congressmen's campaigns. Throughout his lifetime, besides his own political work, he supported numerous Republican candidates. The highest contribution he probably made to any would be \$100. In the case of Senator Gurney he sent a check for that amount as a routine contribution—no more, no less. The total contribution for the particular fund raising party in question was \$21,000 from many contributors.

Over the years my husband often praised the work of Jack Anderson and Les Whitten. While antagonists, he respected, for the most part, their efforts at good investigative reporting. He saw the need for this type of reporting and often cooperated or assisted when asked by them for verification or confirmation of information.

Thus, you may understand my shock and dismay at the abuse of his name again less than two weeks after his funeral, and moreover, in a totally false statement.

MRS. MURRAY M. CHOTINER.
McLean.

Jack Anderson replies: While we sympathize with Mrs. Chotiner, we would like to correct her misreading of our column. We did not say Messrs. Chotiner and Rebozo gave \$21,000 to the Gurney campaign. We specified the money came from a group of donors, "including" Messrs. Chotiner and Rebozo. Their names are listed in the June 10, 1973 report which "Friends of Ed Gurney" filed with the Secretary of the Senate. This list contains the names of some 150 donors, the most prominent being Mr. Chotiner (\$100, April 19, 1973) and Mr. Rebozo (\$100, May 31, 1973.)