

Nixon Unit Shifts Cash To a Trust

By H. L. Schwartz III
Associated Press

The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President has ended its turbulent two-year history by transferring \$3.57 million to a trust fund.

Trustees of the fund told the General Accounting Office in their first financial report this week that they will continue to pay legal fees and other expenses, including an estimated \$775,000 to settle major lawsuits arising from the Watergate break-in.

Fees for lawyers involved in defending the committee and its officials in civil actions and in preparing for Senate or grand jury appearances already have approached \$1 million.

The financial report lists a \$25,519 bill still owed for the committee's principal Watergate lawyer, Kenneth W. Parkinson, who was among those indicted two weeks ago in the Watergate cover-up.

The report also lists a \$1,066 salary payment for this year and a \$200 advance to former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, one of the three current trustees who headed the finance committee from its inception in the spring of 1972.

Paul Barrick, secretary-treasurer of the trust, said the salary check was the last that Stans will get pending outcome of his trial in New York federal court on charges arising from a \$200,000 secret campaign contribution from financier Robert L. Vesco.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell is a co-defendant with Stans in the trial, expected to last well into the spring.

Barrick said Stans' \$30,000-a-year salary was discontinued at the former Cabinet secretary's request when the trial began Feb. 20.

Barrick said he did not know why Stans drew the \$200 advance which, according to the financial report, was received two days after the trial began and was repaid on Feb. 28.

"I guess he needed pocket money," Barrick said.

The finance committee was one of two committees charged with over-all operational control of Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

Serving along with Stans as trustees of the fund, called the 1972 Campaign Liquidation Trust, are Charles Potter, former U.S. senator from Michigan, and Guilford Dudley Jr., a Nashville, Tenn., insurance executive.

No one has said what will be done with the campaign surplus after all the pending liti-



CHARLES POTTER
... serves as trustee

gation is completed. But the Republican National Committee has repeatedly said it should get the money.

The Committee for the Re-election of the President, which was headed briefly by Mitchell in mid-1972, handled political chores. It closed its doors last October. The finance committee raised the money—more than \$60 million in all, making it the richest political campaign in the U.S. history.

The financial report listed return of \$40,000 to Braniff Airways, Inc., of Dallas, noting it was a "refund of a contribution illegally made." The contribution, made secretly in cash before a new federal disclosure law went into effect in April, 1972, was first disclosed by the finance committee in response to a lawsuit late last year. At that time it was listed as varying cash amounts from Braniff executives with a note that the committee was trying then to determine whether it was an illegal contribution out of corporate funds.

The financial report also listed as a separate item for the first time \$15,200 owed by former White House counsel John W. Dean III.

Dean, ousted as counsel after he began to tell his version of the Watergate cover-up to federal prosecutors in early 1973, told the Senate Watergate committee last June that he had custody of \$15,200 which was part of a much larger secret cash fund used to pay off Watergate defendants.

Dean told the Senate committee he at one time had dipped into the cash to pay for his honeymoon, some home improvements and other daily expenses. But, he said, he had restored the funds and, on advice of counsel, had put the money in a trust at a suburban bank after he began to talk to prosecutors.

Just why he still has control of the money almost a year later is unclear.

Barrick said it was his understanding committee lawyers had asked for the money back on several occasions.

But Patrick C. McKeever, a partner of Dean's lawyer, Charles N. Shaffer, and a co-trustee of the \$15,200 trust, said "no communications" have ever been received from the finance committee regarding the money.