

Hush Money Donation Denied by Financier

International financier Thomas A. Pappas, named in a White House transcript as a potential source of funds to be used as hush money for E. Howard Hunt Jr., yesterday denied that he was ever asked for the funds or that he ever gave any.

Pappas, who operates oil refineries and tankers in Greece, was a key fundraiser for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President. His name was mentioned in a transcript of a conversation March 21, 1973, between President Nixon and his former counsel, John W. Dean III.

In the transcript, released Tuesday, Dean told Mr. Nixon that Frederick C. LaRue, former deputy to campaign manager John N. Mitchell, "apparently talked to Tom Pappas . . . and Pap-

pas has agreed to come up with a sizeable amount, I gather" to be given to Watergate conspirator Hunt as hush money.

Later, in the same conversation, Dean said Mitchell had also talked to Pappas about the money. Dean told Mr. Nixon that he asked Mitchell on the telephone, "Is the Greek bearing gifts?"

He said he was talking in code because Mitchell's wife, Martha, had picked up the phone. Mitchell replied, "Well, I'll call you on that tomorrow," according to Dean.

Reached in Athens, Pappas said, "I positively deny that either John Mitchell or Fred LaRue asked me for money. . . . Nobody in our committee was asked to raise hush money."