

Testimony on Milkmen

Fast Hunt for \$300,000

Washington

Top dairy cooperative leaders tried to raise a quick \$300,000 for President Nixon's campaign within hours of a White House meeting on milk price supports in March, 1971, according to secret Senate testimony.

The Senate Watergate Committee has been told that this testimony lends

support to an allegation that milk price supports were raised in 1971 as part of a deal to get campaign money, sources say.

D. Paul Alagia, former executive director of Dairy-men Inc., testified that leaders of two sister dairy cooperatives asked him for the money at a 4 a.m. meeting March 24, 1971, at the airport at Louisville, Ky.,

home of the co-op's headquarters.

Alagia said he quickly refused the request. "We didn't have that kind of money," he said.

The cooperative did, however, donate \$25,000 to the Nixon campaign the same day. The administration announced the milk-price boost the next day, March 25.

Alagia's testimony was

cited by the Senate committee's assistant chief counsel, David Dorsen in a briefing to committee members late Thursday, according to sources who were at the meeting.

Dorsen said the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment investigators appear to be relying on the fruits of the Senate committee's probe into the milk-fund affair the sources said. Dorsen was quoted as saying that the evidence of a deal to raise prices in return for money is stronger than the House probers have yet indicated publicly.

Alagia, in a telephone interview, confirmed the account of his testimony.

Associated Press