

Kalmbach Asked Envoy For \$72,000 for G.O.P.

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WASHINGTON, May 23—Herbert W. Kalmbach, while President Nixon's personal attorney, solicited \$72,000 in Republican campaign contribution from Vincent Deroulet, at the time the Ambassador to Jamaica, according to Mr. Kalmbach's testimony in a civil deposition made public today.

Mr. Kalmbach has pleaded guilty to a charge, brought by the Watergate special prosecutor, of promising a more prestigious ambassadorship to J. Fife Swmington Jr., then the envoy to Trinidad and Tobago, in return for a \$50,000 contribution to Mr. Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

Mr. Kalmbach said nothing in the deposition, taken by Common Cause in a lawsuit seeking a disclosure of Republican campaign finances, of any connection between the contributions by Mr. Deroulet and the ambassadorial post he then held.

But the disclosure that he had asked for political contributions from a second diplomat is the first public indication since Mr. Kalmbach entered his guilty plea in February of reports that the soliciting of campaign donations from ambassadors or ambassadorial hopefuls under the Nixon Administration might have been widespread.

Nominated by Johnson

Mr. Deroulet, the son-in-law of Mrs. Joan Payson, who owns the New York Mets baseball team, was nominated as Ambassador to Jamaica by President Johnson on Aug. 20, 1968. He resigned in July, 1973.

Mr. Kalmbach, according to his testimony, collected one contribution of \$50,000 from Mr. Deroulet in 1970 that was intended to help Republican senatorial candidates against Democratic incumbents.

Mr. Kalmbach said he had collected another \$50,000 at about the same time from Fred

J. Russell, who became Ambassador to Denmark in October, 1971, but that he had not solicited that contribution as he had Mr. Deroulet's.

The Jamaican Ambassador was later asked for, and provided, \$22,000 that went into a safe-deposit box in a California bank controlled by Mr. Kalmbach and that ultimately helped to finance Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign, the lawyer testified.

Under questioning by the Common Cause lawyers, Mr. Kalmbach traced his history as a sometimes official fund-raiser for Mr. Nixon and other Republicans from his receipt, in January, 1969, of a \$1,670,000 surplus from the president's 1968 campaign.

\$300,000 Growth

Under his efforts, Mr. Kalmbach said, the cash fund, transferred from bank vaults in New York City and Washington to safe-deposit boxes in the Los Angeles area where he lives, grew by some \$3,000,000 over the next four years.

Of that sum, he said, he received \$100,000 from Milton Semer, a lawyer representing dairy interests, the donations from Mr. Russell and Mr. Deroulet, and other smaller contributions.

Mr. Kalmbach said his largest disbursement from the cash fund before he turned it over to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President was \$400,000, paid to "persons unknown" on the orders of Lawrence M. Higby, then an aide to the White House chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman.

He later learned, Mr. Kalmbach said, that the unknown individuals were representatives of Albert P. Bewer, and that the \$400,000 was intended aid Mr. Brewer's unsuccessful attempt to defeat George C. Wallace in November, 1970, for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Alabama.