

16 Impeachment Panel Members Got Election Aid From Dairymen

NYTimes

JUN 5 1974

WASHINGTON, June 4 (AP)—At least 16 members of the House Judiciary Committee accepted political donations ranging from \$100 to \$11,000 from the same three dairy farmer cooperatives the panel is investigating as part of its impeachment inquiry.

Two members, Charles B. Rangel, Democrat of Manhattan, and Tom Railsback, Republican of Illinois, decided to return the money after being questioned about it by The Associated Press.

Mr. Rangel got \$100 from Associated Milk Producers, Inc., last March, and sent it back Monday with a letter saying it would be improper for him to accept it.

An aide to Mr. Railsback said he would give back \$500 that he received from the same group in 1972 "because he wants to be free of any conflict of interest."

The others, including the committee chairman, Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, who got \$4,100, said they saw no conflict.

Mr. Rodino's urban New Jersey district has no dairy farmers in it. An aide said Mr. Rodino had not asked for the money and said he could not explain why the cooperatives had given it to him.

The biggest recorded donation went to Edward Mezvinsky, a first-term Democrat from Iowa, who got \$11,000.

According to public records going back to April 7, 1972, these other committee members were given money by one or more of the co-ops, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Dairymen, Inc., and Mid-America Dairy-

men, Inc.: M. Caldwell Butler, Republican of Virginia, \$1,000; William S. Cohen, Republican of Maine, \$3,000; John Conyers Jr., Democrat of Michigan, \$100; David W. Dennis, Republican of Indiana, \$500; Walter Flow-

ers, Democrat of Alabama, \$1,000; Harold V. Froehlich, Republican of Wisconsin, \$100; William L. Hungate, Democrat of Missouri, \$2,300; Robert W. Kastenmeier, Democrat of Wisconsin, \$2,650; Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, \$2,500; Robert McClory, Republican of Illinois, \$500; Wayne Owens, Democrat of Utah, \$2,600; and Jerome R. Waldie, Democrat of California, \$200.

Mr. Kastenmeier, Mr. Hungate and Mr. Flowers also were among sponsors of legislation to raise the Federal support price for milk in 1971. The White House has cited this legislation, sponsored eventually by 121 House members, as a key reason that President Nixon overruled the Agriculture Department and raised milk price supports in March, 1971.

The Judiciary Committee is scheduled to begin, within a week or two, an inquiry into allegations that Mr. Nixon raised prices because of a promise of \$2-million in political donations from the dairy cooperatives. The White House has said that Mr. Nixon knew about the promise of money but was not influenced by it.

Public records show that members of the Judiciary Committee received a total of \$32,150 after April 7, 1972. Records of Congressional donations before that date are no longer available for public inspection.

Of the total, \$24,050 went to nine Democrats and \$81,000 went to seven Republicans.

Most of the Judiciary Committee members who received dairy-farmer donations said this would not conflict with their consideration of the allegations against Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Hungate summed up what many of his colleagues said: "If Mr. Nixon received and reported a legitimate campaign donation, as I did, he's in no trouble. If he sought and received a bribe, as I did not, he is in deep trouble."