

Kalmbach Gets Prison Sentence

Washington

Herbert W. Kalmbach, who collected millions for Richard Nixon's presidential campaigns and handled his private legal affairs, was sentenced yesterday to serve at least six months in prison for violating election laws.

"Your honor, I'd like you to know how deeply embarrassed I am and how much I regret standing before you this afternoon," the 52-year-old Kalmbach said, head down, eyes blinking hard in an obvious effort to retain control.

United States District Judge John J. Sirica also imposed a \$10,000 fine as he sentenced Kalmbach to a 6- to 18-month term on one felony count and six months for a misdemeanor. The sentences will run concurrently and will be served at a minimum-security institution.

Kalmbach was the 15th individual sent to prison in the Watergate scandals. He will report, probably to the prison farm at Lompoc, Calif., on July 1 — the institution closest to his home at Newport Beach.

In return for Kalmbach's guilty plea on the two counts — one a technical campaign violation, the other bartering an ambassadorship for a \$100,000 contribution — the Government promised not to prosecute him for any other violations.

By his own testimony, Kalmbach had been the paymaster for political dirty trickster Donald H. Segretti, had raised \$220,000 that went to keep the Watergate burglars quiet, and has confirmed a \$2 million campaign pledge from milk producers after the White House decided to raise dairy support prices.

His lawyer, James H. O'Connor — a friend for 25

years — told Sirica that Kalmbach was a man whose trust was abused by the White House.

"He is a man who accepts without hesitation the truth of statements from those he accepts as friends," O'Connor said.

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nor said. "What is deplorable to me, shameful, is that these men were so aware of Herbert Kalmbach's willingness to trust.

"He was not on the White House team . . . he was not

in the planning, the scheming of whatever the White House was doing," O'Connor said that Kalmbach is a lawyer who has risen to a position of considerable distinction in the legal profession, and has already been punished by loss of his reputation.

Sirica made no comment as he pronounced sentence.

Kalmbach admitted raising \$2.8 million for Republican Senate candidates in 1970 in something called "Operation Townhouse." The charge was that the committee that collected and disbursed the money had not chosen a chairman and treasurer as required by law. It was a violation of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and a felony with a maximum penalty of two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Kalmbach also conceded promising J. Fife Symington, then ambassador to Tobago and Trinidad, a better post for a \$100,000 contribution. The charge, a misdemeanor, carried a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$1000 fine. Symington did not get the advancement and retired from the diplomatic service.

Associated Press



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HERBERT KALMBACH
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