

Campaign Reserves No Aid to Nixon

By Brooks Jackson
Associated Press

Trustees for some \$2 million placed Stans, who resigned left from former President as a trustee. Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign say he cannot use the money for any legal fees he may incur.

Leftover campaign funds are being used to pay legal expenses of former Nixon campaign officials John N. Mitchell, Maurice H. Stans and others.

But the money may not be used to pay legal fees for anyone who did not hold an official position in the campaign organization, trustees say. This includes former White House aides H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, and Mr. Nixon himself.

"There's no way," said Charles E. Potter, chairman of the three-man trust that oversees the money. "The trust agreement doesn't provide for that."

Another trustee, Guilford Dudley Jr., said he also understands Mr. Nixon cannot use the money.

The third trustee, Paul Barrick, was unavailable for comment. Barrick recently re-

placed Stans, who resigned as a trustee. The trust reported \$3.4 million cash on hand when it filed its most recent report in June. Since then it has agreed to settle a lawsuit brought against it by the Democratic Party for \$775,000. It also reported bills outstanding of \$560,000, leaving a bit more than \$2 million. This is expected to be cut further when Mitchell submits his legal bills.

Mr. Nixon could find himself faced with legal bills mounting into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. He already is a defendant in one Watergate lawsuit, and conceivably could be named in other civil suits or in possible criminal cases.

Taxpayers paid for at least \$382,474 in fees, salaries and expenses for the team of White House lawyers who defended him in the Watergate affair and preliminary impeachment proceedings, according to a General Accounting Office audit released in May.

That figure continues to rise because lawyers J. Fred Buzhardt and James D. St. Clair are still on the payroll. But many of the 17-member team of Watergate lawyers were packing up this week in the wake of Mr. Nixon's resignation, some planning to take vacations and start looking for new jobs.

Nobody knows how much has been paid already in legal fees by the 50 men and 14 corporations charged with Watergate-related crimes. Such information normally is a confidential matter between attorney and client.

However, enough information has spilled onto the public record to show the figure runs well into the millions.

Some examples:

- Lawyer William O. Bittman told the House Judiciary Committee his firm was paid \$156,000 to defend Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.
- Lawyer Henry Rothblatt is suing Mr. Nixon for \$117,000 in unpaid legal fees for representing the original five Watergate burglars in the early days of the case.
- Stans submitted legal fees of \$381,692 to the Nixon campaign trust after he was acquitted in the Vesco case.
- The trust said it anticipated Mitchell would also submit a legal bill, presumably approaching \$400,000.
- Various White House aides who have not even been charged with any wrongdoing have reported that their legal bills are running from \$50 to \$20,000.