

Legal Fees

Draining

Nixon Fund

Washington

The balance of former President Nixon's leftover 1972 campaign fund dwindled below \$1 million in the past three months, eaten away by the legal consequences of Watergate.

A quarterly report filed yesterday with the government shows the fund now has \$2.1 million cash on hand, but owes debts of \$1.2 million.

The report also listed 12 lawsuits in which more than \$22 million is sought from what was once termed the most successful political fund-raising campaign in U.S. history.

Yesterday's report, covering the three months ended August 31, listed \$1.36 million in expenditures. More than half of that was the \$775,000 paid to settle Watergate lawsuits brought by the Democratic National Committee and its former chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien.

Another \$499,218 was paid out for legal fees — \$407,400 of it to lawyers who defended former Nixon fund-raising chairman Maurice H. Stans at his perjury and conspiracy trial. Stans was acquitted.

The fund also paid out \$15,000 to lawyers who advised Edward Nixon, brother of the former president and one-time campaign committee employee.

The report listed new legal fees of \$471,391 sought by attorneys for former campaign director John N. Mitchell, who was acquitted with Stans.

Associated Press