

COMPANY IS FINED ON CAMPAIGN AID

Carolina Executive Guilty in
Illegal Contributions to
Nixon's '72 Campaign

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—

The head of an architectural and engineering concern pleaded guilty today for himself and his corporation to charges of making illegal contributions totaling \$10,000 to former President Richard M. Nixon's 1972 campaign.

William Lyles Sr., president and chairman of LBC & W, Inc., of Columbia, S. C., appeared before Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. in United States District Court. The corporation had been named in a criminal information filed by the Watergate special prosecutor under a law barring contributions by a government contractor.

Mr. Lyles was named in two counts of nonwillful violation of laws covering illegal contributions from corporate funds. He was fined \$1,000 on each count, and the corporation was fined \$5,000.

The special prosecutor's office alleged that fake bonuses had been awarded to employees of the concern, with the money eventually going into a fund used to make contributions to the Nixon campaign. Mr. Lyles specified how the money was to be spent, directing most of it into four committees on July 20, and Nov. 16, 1971.

Mr. Lyles's lawyer, Edward Bennett Williams, stressed that although the concern, formerly Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff, was a government contractor, the concern received no benefits from the Government for its contributions.

20th Official Involved

Today's action marked the 20th time a corporate officer had gone to court for illegal campaign contribution charges in the Watergate investigation and the 15th time a corporation had been to court.

In related matters, Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski filed a legal memorandum with Judge John J. Sirica at the judge's request describing the court's power to ask for so-called "court witnesses."

Such witnesses, rather than being called by the prosecution or defense, are called by the court and treated in a different manner from normal witnesses.

"The public interest is best served by putting before the jury participants in the events in question who otherwise might not be called by either party because of doubts that a particular witness will testify with complete candor and admit all that he knows in response to nonleading questions," Mr. Jaworski stated.

By having such a witness called by the court, the prosecution does not have to vouch for his credibility and can ask leading and searching questions that are generally allowed only during defense cross-examination.

Mr. Jaworski had previously stated that he planned to ask for one or more such court witnesses from the list of 19 unindicted co-conspirators in the cover-up case, which is due to start Oct. 1.

Tap Recording Law

In a second memorandum, Mr. Jaworski described the law on the use of tape recordings and tape transcripts during the trial.

At the White House, the deputy press secretary, John W. Hushen, said the tapes made by Mr. Nixon were still in the custody of the White House, except for those turned over to Judge Sirica.

Mr. Jaworski, meanwhile, replied to a letter from eight members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who asked a week ago that the special prosecutor include in his final report a record of Mr. Nixon's involvement in the Watergate affair.

Mr. Jaworski said that there were "substantial legal and ethical questions as to the statutory authority" to issue such a report.

The regulations governing the special prosecutor's office allow him to make public statements or issue reports "as he deems appropriate." They also charge him with submitting a final report.

Mr. Jaworski said that it was his "tentative belief" that the regulations "most likely" do not justify including such a detailed report on Mr. Nixon.

"Unless authorized, our primary concern relates to the protection of individual rights and to the proper scope of a prosecutor's treatment of criminal allegations," he wrote.

Members of the Senate committee were considering what steps to take next in their effort to have a full public accounting made of Mr. Nixon's role.

Meanwhile, a citizen's criminal complaint against Mr. Nixon has been filed with the foreman of the original Watergate grand jury.

The complaint, which alleges as crimes the three counts brought by the House Judiciary Committee in its impeachment hearings, was delivered Friday to the United States Attorney's office in Washington and addressed to the jury foreman, Vladimir N. Pregelj.

It was sent by five members of a Hawaii-based political movement that calls itself The New American Revolution and advocates limiting all politicians to two terms in office.