

Wyman Shifts on '72 Gift

By Jonathan Kellogg
CONCORD, N.H., Sept. 18 (AP) — Rep. Louis C. Wyman, a middleman for a \$300,000 contributor to former President Nixon, now says the contributor met with the head of Mr. Nixon's re-election finance committee before she was appointed an ambassador.

The contributor, Ruth Farkas of New York City, is under investigation by the Watergate Special Prosecution Force in connection with allegations that the Nixon administration sold ambassadorships.

In a telephone interview from his Washington office on Tuesday, Wyman, the Republican U.S. Senate nominee in New Hampshire, said his statement that Mrs. Farkas held a key meeting with Maurice H. Stans in September, 1972, was wrong.

Wyman said he, Stans and Mrs. Farkas actually met May 23, 1972.

Wyman's new account indicates Mrs. Farkas made a commitment to contribute \$300,000 to the Nixon campaign before she was notified that she would be nominated ambassador to Luxembourg.

In a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was considering Mrs. Farkas' nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg, Wyman had stated the meeting was in September.

Wyman said he discovered the error after he was questioned by Tom McBride, an assistant in the special prosecutor's office.

The appointment has become the major issue of Wyman's Senate campaign



REP. LOUIS C. WYMAN
... denies wrongdoing



RUTH FARKAS
... under investigation

against former state Insurance Commissioner John A. Durkin, the Democratic nominee.

Wyman maintains there was no wrongdoing nor any "quid pro quo" arrangement for the ambassadorship.

The written accounts Mrs. Farkas and Wyman separately gave the committee said that she did not make the campaign pledge to Stans until after Mr. Nixon had nominated her.

Mrs. Farkas, who is in Luxembourg, was not available immediately for comment.

In a letter to Sen. Gale McGee (D-Wyo.) on March 14, 1973, the day after the Foreign Relations Committee's hearing on the Farkas nomination, Wyman said that Mrs. Farkas called him in early September and said she and her husband wished to make a contribution to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign because of his detente policy with the Soviet Union and China.

"I indicated to her that this was a matter for the national finance chairman, Mr. Stans, and that I would arrange an appointment for her with Mr. Stans, which I did," Wyman wrote McGee.

Wyman also said that while he was present "there was no discussion whatever concerning any appointment for Mrs. Farkas or any reference to whether the campaign funding was adequate or short."

In her letter to the committee, also dated March 14, Mrs. Farkas said she was asked by Wyman in June, 1972, if she was interested in the Luxembourg ambassadorship. She replied she was interested.

"I later received word from him that I was under consideration to be named ambassador to Luxembourg."

"As Senator (Charles) Percy mentioned at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on March 13, the committee had been informed

on Aug. 15, 1972, of the President's intention to nominate me," Mrs. Farkas wrote.

Further in the letter, she wrote, "Shortly after my husband and I came home from Europe in mid-September, I suggested to Congressman Wyman that I would like him to accompany me when I met with Maurice Stans concerning our intended contributions."

Asked how both he and Mrs. Farkas could have the date of the meeting wrong, Wyman said Mrs. Farkas had relied on him to remember the dates, and her dates were based on his. In testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Nixon's former lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach, said he and Wyman discussed nominating Mrs. Farkas as ambassador to Costa Rica in 1971.

In his testimony to the Judiciary Committee, Kalmbach said he clearly recalled a conversation with Wyman, in which the congressman "further indicated . . . that she was interested in an ambassadorial appointment to Costa Rica . . . that she would give \$250,000. That is my best recollection."

Wyman has denied Kalmbach's testimony, saying he only discussed Mrs. Farkas' qualifications and that she was wealthy and probably would be a large contributor to Mr. Nixon's campaign.

Kalmbach told the committee he later met with Mrs. Farkas and she indicated she was not interested in Costa Rica but wanted a European ambassadorship.