

Ex-Nixon Aide Admits Campaign Guilt

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—Harry S. Dent, the special counsel for four years under President Nixon, pleaded guilty today to taking part in an illegally organized political committee in 1970 and was placed on one month's unsupervised probation.

Mr. Dent appeared before Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. in Federal District Court. The charges grew from the operation of a secret \$3-million fund directed by the White House for the 1970 Congressional elections.

After a lengthy appeal to Judge Hart by Mr. Dent and his lawyer, Judah Best, the judge stated, "It does sound to me like Mr. Dent was more the victim than the perpetrator."

Sentence Suspended

Judge Hart imposed no sentence and ordered the unsupervised probation. The misdemeanor carried a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine and a year in prison.

The charges had been brought by the Watergate special prosecution force under its broad charter but were not related to

major events in the Watergate affair.

The 44-year-old lawyer from Columbia, S. C., was charged with "aiding and abetting" in a violation of the old Federal Corrupt Practices Act. The act has since been superseded by the 1972 Federal Election Campaign Act.

Kalmbach Solicited Funds

Mr. Dent had taken part in a political organization, dubbed "Operation Townhouse," that accepted contributions solicited largely by Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal lawyer.

The operation was run by Jack A. Gleason, who, with Mr. Kalmbach pleaded guilty to working with the committee, which had neither treasurer nor chairman and thus was illegal.

Mr. Dent and other political advisers at the White House, directed how the money was to be spent, channeling it to candidates of their choice.

Mr. Dent joined the White House staff in May, 1969, after serving as top aide to Senator Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina. In February, 1973, he was named general counsel for the Republican National Committee. He returned

to private practice this year.

Mr. Best argued before Judge Hart that the law was an antique and seldom enforced, that Mr. Dent had no knowledge that he was breaking it and that Mr. Dent had no idea how the funds were accounted for.

After court proceedings were over, Mr. Dent said, "I'm very grateful to the judge." He said he had done nothing consciously wrong.

Asked why he pleaded guilty, he replied that "as Richard Nixon's southern strategist" he felt he had little chance at a trial.

Speaking to friends in the court hallway, Mr. Dent joked about the charge against him, comparing it to a speeding ticket.

That's what you call a high-class moving violation, he said. Then he added, "Oh yes—I'm on probation. I better be good."

G.O.P. State Leader to Quit

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 10 (AP)—David Sullivan, under fire from other Republicans since the party sustained big losses in the November elections, said Tuesday he was resigning as Republican state chairman effective Dec. 19.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!