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Ex-Aide to Humphrey Sentenced For Taking Illegal Contribution

By BARBARA CAMPBELL

Jack L. Chestnut, the manager of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey's 1970 senatorial campaign, was sentenced to four months in jail and fined \$5,000 yesterday for accepting an illegal corporate campaign contribution.

Mr. Chestnut, a prominent Minneapolis lawyer, became the first aide to a high Democratic politician to be convicted as a result of the Senate Watergate committee investigation.

Judge Edward Weinfeld, imposing sentence at the United States Court House at Foley Square, said that he considered a prison sentence necessary "to protect the integrity of the political system against improper use of money."

Speaking at some length before sentencing, the Judge Weinfeld said that he had spent "soul-searching and agonizing hours" before deciding on Mr. Chestnut's sentence. To "insure that others will understand the seriousness of the violation," the judge said, he decided that imposing a fine would not be enough.

Mr. Chestnut, a senior partner in the firm of Chestnut, Brooks & Burkhardt, was convicted of having arranged that \$12,000 in illegal contributions from Associated Milk Producers, Inc. be used to pay Mr. Humphrey's bills to a New York Advertising agency, Lennen & Newell, Inc.

Mr. Chestnut had contended that he was innocent of "willful" violation of the law and had asked the judge for acquittal on the grounds that evidence in the case was insufficient, that there was a lack



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Jack L. Chestnut

of venue in this district and that there were errors in the admission of evidence and prejudicial instructions to the jury. The judge turned down the request on Wednesday.

At the sentencing Mr. Chestnut said that he should have been "more diligent, careful and cautious," and he apologized to Senator Humphrey, who last month said that he had come "close to quitting public life" as a result of illegal contributions to his campaigns by the dairy cooperative.

Mr. Chestnut, who could have received up to two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, also apologized to the citizens of the state of Minnesota.

Mr. Chestnut remained free pending appeal.