

A.M.P.I. BOARD SAID TO KNOW OF GIFTS

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Ex-Manager Testifies on
Illegal Campaign Funds
NYTimes

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., July 1 (UPI)—The former general manager of the nation's largest dairy cooperative testified today that its board of directors was aware that contributions were being made illegally from corporate funds before the 1972 election.

Harold S. Nelson of San Antonio, who served a four-month Federal sentence for his part in the illicit campaign contributions by Associated Milk Producers, Inc., said the fact that corporate funds were being funneled into various campaigns was fully discussed at a board meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in December, 1970, or January, 1971.

Mr. Nelson said, however, that he had withheld total details of the contributions from the directors to lessen any criminal liability they might have had if the illegalities were discovered.

"This was all thoroughly aired," he said. "I finally wound up by saying I thought they [the directors] were better off not knowing all the details of these contributions. I suggested if they wanted to do otherwise, they'd better get another general manager."

Mr. Nelson and a former A.M.P.I. controller, Robert O. Isham, both testified that Stuart Russell, an Oklahoma City lawyer, was one of several lawyers and consultants the giant co-op used, beginning with backing the Humphrey-Muskie campaign in 1968, to direct corporate funds into specific political campaigns.

Mr. Russell is on trial on

three counts of violating the Campaign Practices Act, particularly in donations to Senator Edmund S. Muskie's campaigns. His attorney, Wallis Duncan, maintains that Mr. Russell was an unwitting accomplice to the illegalities to which the corporation pleaded guilty last year and paid a fine.