

## Mrs. Farkas Said to Blame Wyman for Deal for Post

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WASHINGTON, July 1—Ruth L. Farkas, the American Ambassador to Luxembourg, told the Watergate grand jury last spring that she won her diplomatic post in a direct and explicit exchange for a \$300,000 contribution to the Nixon re-election campaign of 1972, according to a source close to the Farkas family in New York.

But, the source said, Mrs. Farkas is hoping to save herself from indictment by charging that Louis C. Wyman, the Republican claimant to New Hampshire's contested Senate seat, "tricked" and "seduced" her and her husband into the deal.

Mr. Wyman denied the accusation today in a telephone interview from Wolfeboro, N. H., where he awaits further Senate deliberation on the outcome of his 1974 Senate race against John A. Durkin, a Democrat.

Last September, before Mrs. Farkas's testimony, Leon Jaworski, then the Watergate special prosecutor said that his investigation "has not uncovered evidence which would support the bringing of any criminal charges" against Mr. Wyman, then a member of the House of Representatives, in connection with the Farkas nomination.

### Country Club Meeting

A source friendly to the Farkases and familiar with their testimony said today that they told the grand jury last April of a meeting with Mr. Wyman at the Palm Beach Country Club in the last days of 1971.

As the same source recounted the Palm Beach story, George Farkas, the millionaire founder of Alexander's department store in New York, told Mr. Wyman that he wanted an Embassy for his wife—preferably in Europe and ideally in Luxembourg. Mr. Wyman allegedly responded that such a post would cost \$300,000, to which Mr. Farkas replied, "Done!"

According to the same Farkas source, the agreement and the price were confirmed by Maurice H. Stans, then the chief fund raiser for the Nixon campaign, at a meeting with Mrs. Farkas and Mr. Wyman in Washington in late March, 1972.

Mr. Stans's lawyer, Robert W. Barker, said today that Mr. Stans acknowledged that meeting in grand jury testimony "several months ago." But he said that Mr. Stans said "his recollection is there was no discussion of an ambassadorship" at that time.

### Nominated in 1973

Subsequently, according to the Farkas source, after the State Department and the Government of Luxembourg had given preliminary clearance to her appointment, Mrs. Farkas began writing substantial checks to different Nixon campaign committees.



United Press International

Dr. Ruth Lewis Farkas

She was formally nominated by President Nixon in February, 1973, and confirmed by the Senate after a short investigation inot the circumstance that most of her \$300,000 contribution was delivered to the Nixon campaign after the election was over.

In her most recent grand jury testimony, Mrs. Farkas is said to have recanted her sworn statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in March, 1973, that her contribution "had absolutely nothing to do with whether I was getting an ambassadorship or not."

On the contrary, according to the source close to the Farkases, Mr. and Mrs. Farkas "are acknowledging that under the tutelage of Mr. Wyman, they paid \$300,000 in return for a promise of an ambassadorship—a promise that was kept."

They are contending now, the source said, that legal culpability, if any, falls on Mr. Wyman, not on the Farkases. "They feel they were cajoled, exhorted or tricked into this," the source said. "They felt

they had guidance from someone, who ought to know the law, that this was legal. It turns out he was wrong."

Mr. Wyman has long acknowledged that on both the contribution and the ambassadorship, he was the middleman between the Nixon Administration and the Farkases, who are friends of Benjamin Mates, a rich Manchester, N.H., constituent.

But Mr. Wyman insisted again today that there was nothing illegal about the deal, because there was never any formal agreement on the exchange. "You establish your eligibility" with a big campaign contribution, Mr. Wyman said, but Mrs. Farkas was never promised a job.

If there was anything illegal Wyman cannot believe that it involves him, he said, because "it wasn't my ambassadorship to sell, and I never saw any of the money."

The "Farkas fracas," as it became known, was a much-discussed issue in the New Hampshire Senate campaign last fall. When it was reported that the Watergate special prosecutor was looking into the case, Mr. Wyman granted that since early 1969 he had tried to help Mrs. Farkas secure an ambassadorship—first to Costa Rica and later to Luxembourg.

He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1973 that he had not introduced Mrs. Farkas to Mr. Stans until September, 1972—after the appointment had been cleared on its merits. Later, he corrected the date of that meeting with Mr. Stans to May 23, 1972—before the paperwork on the ambassadorship was done.

But then, and again today, Mr. Wyman maintained that no promise of an appointment was traded for a promise of campaign money.

### Jaworski Statement

Mr. Durkin's campaign attacks on the Farkas case were blunted by the statement last fall by Mr. Jaworski.

"Specifically, in regard to Congressman Wyman," Mr. Jaworski said in a letter, "the investigation has not uncovered evidence which would support the bringing of any criminal charges against Congressman Wyman."

The special prosecutor's office said today that it would have no comment on the case. It is widely understood, however, that the investigation is continuing, and that some witnesses in the Farkas affair have been summoned for further examination this month.

"It smells like politics," Mr. Wyman said today about the reports of the Farkases' testimony against him. "With the possibility of a runoff election coming up in New Hampshire, this is the sort of thing that distresses me as another attempt to besmirch my integrity."