

Gulf Oil Campaign Gifts

Washington

A former Gulf Oil official acknowledges making allegedly illegal campaign contributions to at least 15 senators and congressmen, including cash paid in a hotel men's room and behind a barn, it was learned yesterday.

Gulf was convicted in 1973 of making illegal contributions to the 1972 presidential campaign of Richard M. Nixon, and the campaigns of Representative William M. Jackson (Dem.-Wash.)

But UPI learned the list of alleged recipients has been expanded to at least nine present and former senators, including presidential hopeful Fred Harris, six present and former represent-

atives, former Kansas Governor William Avery and Pennsylvania's "Mr. Republican," George Bloom.

The allegations were made in a statement October 30 to the Securities and Exchange Commission by Frederick Myers, who retired in June as Gulf's legislative coordinator in Washington. Myers worked 47 years for GULF, the last 16 in Washington.

Gulf had no immediate comment.

Myers said he delivered sealed envelopes "maybe four or five or six times a year" to the Capitol Hill offices of senators and representatives between 1960 and 1972, when the Watergate prosecutor began to probe Gulf's campaign activities.

Myers said he made 20 trips outside Washington to deliver sealed envelopes that were addressed with one person's name, usually the elected official or a campaign aide.

In these trips, Myers said he

usually went to a hotel or campaign office, delivered the envelope and returned to Washington. Sometimes he was met at the airport, he said.

Myers said he gave one sealed envelope to Senator Edwin Mechem (Rep.-N.M.) "behind the barn" of a New Mexico ranch in 1964. Mechem lost his bid for reelection to Democrat Joseph Montoya.

He said he delivered another to former Representative Richard Roudsbush (Rep.-Ind.) in a hotel men's room in Indianapolis.

Myers said he never mentioned Gulf's name, but told each recipient the sealed envelope was from "Mr. Wild."

Claude Wild, who resigned last year as Gulf's top official in Washington, was co-defendant with Gulf in the 1973 conviction for illicit campaign activities. Wild took the Fifth Amendment—refused to testify against himself—when he met with SEC investigator October 29.

Wild pleaded guilty Nov. 13, 1973, of violating the federal law prohibiting corporate political gifts and was fined \$1000. Gulf the same day also entered a guilty plea and was fined \$5000—in each case, the maximum provided by law.

Other members of Congress named by Myers included Senators Howard Baker (Rep.-Nev.), Howard Cannon (Dem.-Nev.), Vance Hartke (Dem.-Ind.), former Senators Marlow Cook (Rep.-Ky.), Edward Gurney (Rep.-Fla.), Wallace Bennett (Rep.-Utah), Norris Cotton (Rep.-N.H.), Representative Herman Schneebeli (Rep.-Pa.), and former Representatives Julia Hansen (Dem.-Wash.), James Burke (Dem.-Mass.), Page Belcher (Rep.-Okla.), and James Fulton (Rep.-Pa.).

Myers said he saw the sealed envelopes opened only twice. Both times the envelope was filled with cash, he said.

Myers said he did not know how much money was given to the candidates, but \$10,000 was paid in cash to a Republican fundraising dinner and \$5000 to a Democratic fund-raising dinner.

United Press