

# Nixon Friend Arrested on 58 Counts

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dec. 15  
Financier C. Arnholt Smith,  
once an important figure in  
national Republican party  
circles, was arrested Monday  
on 58 counts including bank  
fraud.

Smith, 76, was arrested in  
his office within an hour after  
an indictment was returned by  
the county grand jury at noon.

The charges included grand  
theft, state income tax  
evasion, misapplication of  
bank funds, forgery and  
conspiracy to commit grand  
theft.

A business partner, Philip  
A. Toft, was named on 42  
similar counts.

Smith's bail was set at  
\$50,000 and bond for Toft was  
set at \$25,000. Both were  
released on their own  
recognizance.

Toft was president of the  
Westgate-California Corp., a  
conglomerate which Smith  
founded but which went into  
receivership last year.

Last June, after being in-  
dicted by a federal grand jury  
on 25 counts of bank fraud and  
related charges, Smith was  
allowed to plead no contest to  
felony bank fraud and fined  
\$30,000.

The white-haired Smith is a  
long-time friend and  
benefactor of former  
President Richard M. Nixon.  
When the 1968 presidential  
election returns came in,  
Smith was with the Nixons  
watching television in their  
New York City apartment.

He was honored as Mr. San  
Diego a decade ago and was  
a recognized civic leader.

After the federal in-  
dictment, Smith's vast  
business empire which in-  
cluded an airline, hotels, tuna  
canneries and a bank  
collapsed, one by one.