

Greek Businessman Joins Ford Camp as Fund-Raiser

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (UPI) —A Greek-American industrialist who was investigated in connection with foreign contributions to the Nixon-Agnew campaigns has joined President Ford's fund-raising committee.

Thomas Pappas, who holds dual United States and Greek citizenship, has been investigated by the Senate and House select committees on intelligence for alleged involvement in contributions from Greek military dictators to the 1968 and 1972 Presidential campaigns of Richard M. Nixon and Spiro T. Agnew.

Robert Mosbacher, who became chairman of Mr. Ford's finance committee Dec. 5, said he knew little about Mr. Pappas except that he was a Republican fund-raiser from Massachusetts. "I think he has some loose association with the committee," Mr. Mosbacher said.

But reliable financial sources have said that Mr. Pappas attended all strategy meetings of the Ford finance committee before Mr. Mosbacher took over. Max Fisher, who headed those meetings, did not return telephone calls to his Detroit office. Mr. Pappas could not be reached for comment.

'Shady Enterprises'

The Congressional Committees investigated Mr. Pappas at the request of Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Representative Don Edwards, Democrat of California. Mr. McGovern and Mr. Edwards cited reports by Jack Anderson, the columnist, and Elias Demetracopoulos, a leading opponent of the Greek dictatorship, that the dictators had funneled money through Mr. Pappas to Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew in exchange for a guarantee of United States support.

Mr. Pappas has a \$200 million investment in Greece that includes petrochemicals, a steel mill and a Coca-Cola franchise.

The soft drink franchise was awarded him for services to the dictatorship.

The democratic Government that succeeded the dictatorship last year is trying to remove the franchise from Mr. Pappas, who has asked Mr. Ford to intervene on his behalf in exchange for fund-raising efforts, financial sources said.

A House committee investigator said, "We couldn't pin anything on Pappas. But he was in the background."

A former member of the Watergate special prosecution force, now a Government official, said Mr. Pappas had turned up in the investigations of illegal contributions to the 1972 Nixon-Agnew campaign, but he said the matter had not been pursued because Mr. Nixon had been major target.

Presidential transcripts made public in connection with the Senate Watergate investigation indicated that Mr. Pappas was the first man Mr. Nixon, John Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon's former aide, and John Mitchell, Attorney General under Mr. Nixon, thought of contacting to raise the hush money demanded by E. Howard Hunt, a burglar of the Democratic offices at the Watergate complex.

"Mr. Pappas has thus far escaped a direct accounting for his activities, I think largely because investigators have been preoccupied with other bigger targets," Mr. McGovern said. "But his name has popped up in a series of shady enterprises running from the [Nixon] Administration's untimely association with the junta in Greece to abuses in intelligence agencies, and especially to the Nixon money schemes.

There is certainly enough on the public record to raise serious suspicions, and I would think anyone who is interested in avoiding any taint of political scandal would take these matters into account. Mr. Ford's



Thomas A. Pappas

fund-raisers should expect to answer fully for their connections with Mr. Pappas."

Mr. Pappas's name has appeared repeatedly in controversial circumstances over the past several years.

F. Donald Nixon, the former President's younger brother, reportedly dined in Athens in the spring of 1970 at a dinner Mr. Pappas hosted for the top leaders of the military junta.

Mr. Pappas was acquitted by a court in Athens in 1971 on charges of breach of trust. A group of stockholders in the Steel Sheets Company of Athens, taken over by Pappas' interests in 1964, accused him of "intentionally leading the company to ruin" for the benefit of its competitor, Hellenic Steel.

Hellenic had been set up by Mr. Pappas in Salonika, Greece, reportedly with the cooperation of Republic, a major United States steel manufacturer.

One year later, eight anti-junta Greeks were arrested on charges of plotting to kidnap Mr. Pappas and several other persons — including John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the late President.

And there have been reports that the Central Intelligence Agency contributed to the Nixon-Agnew campaign by sending money to the dictatorship's intelligence service, KYP, which then gave it to Mr. Pappas. A House investigator said the agency denied the allegations.