

Gulf Oil's Political Gifts Re Detailed

Washington

Over the past decade, former Gulf Oil officials tapped an illegal fund for \$400,000 a year for gifts to politicians, including then representative Gerald Ford and three current candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, court records showed yesterday.

The contributions were made to Mr. Ford, senators Henry Jackson (Dem-Wash.) and Lloyd Bentsen (Dem-Tex.); and Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp, according to a sworn statement filed in U.S. district court.

The record also said the payments included \$5000 each spring and fall "for many years" to Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania "for a personal matter or for some office matters — never in connectin with political contribution matters."

The record is a sworn statement of Thomas D. Wright, a Pittsburgh lawyer whose firm is retained by Gulf. Wright said he got the information from August through December, 1973, from former Gulf Vice President Claude Wild Jr.

The Wright deposition was taken for a Securities and Exchange Commission case against Wild in connection with Gulf's alleged \$10.3 million corporate slush fund that was used about equally for payments to U.S. politicians and foreign government officials since Corporate contributions to politicians are illegal.

In a statement, Scott said "all funds received by me from any person were given with assurance that they represented the contributions of individuals or of employee groups and that no corporate funds were so received to my knowledge.

"These contributions were either committed to my own campaign or distributed to further the campaigns of others."

Wright said Mr. Ford received \$2000 in 1972, Jackson \$10,000 in 1972, Bentsen \$2000 in 1970 when he was elected to the Senate, and Shapp an undetermined amount about the time of his first gubernatorial campaign.

Wright said Gulf did not contribute to the 1972 presidential campaigns of Humphrey or Sena-



CLAUDE WILD
Donations to Ford

tors George McGo overn (Dem-S.D.) and Edmund Muskie (Dem-Maine).

Although the contribution to Jackson was disclosed in the Watergate special prosecutor's probe of the 1972 presidential election, the circumstances around the gift have not.

In reference to his 1973 meeting with Wild, Wright said Wild told him "all energy legislation comes before him (Jackson). This is in way of explaining why he would even listen to the fact that they wanted the money from him (Wild) — and he was pointing out the powerfulness of this kind of request and the fact that he had to pay attention to it."

Wright said the contribution was made to Jackson aide Bill Brawley who "called him (Wild) two or three times, wanting help for Senator Jackson."

Jackson said last night that Wright's statement was "not true." "There was no solicitation on my part and I did not authorize any solicitation," he said.

Jackson added that his office had reported all contributions received, including the Wild contribution, in 1973 in connection with a request from the Watergate Committee.

Wright said Gulf gave \$25,000 to Humphrey before he won the Democratic nomination in 1968.

The \$2000 to Mr. Ford was given on March 9, 1972 to the

"committee to re-elect Jerry Ford," Wright said.

White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said the reported contribution to Mr. Ford's congressional campaigns apparently is the same as mentioned in a story several weeks ago in the New York Times.

"It is not very new. About 20 people were listed and Ford was at the bottom of the list," he said. "The President never knowingly took a contribution from Gulf or any other corporation."

Nessen said all of the contributions that Mr. Ford received in 1972 and before were reviewed by the Senate and House committees which dealt with his confirmation as vice president.

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