

Senators' Gulf Oil Link Eyed

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The Senate ethics committee, which has access to more financial information about senators than any other investigative body, announced yesterday that it is looking into charges of illegal contributions to senators by Gulf Oil Corp.

In a terse statement that named no names, the committee said it has met three times on the issue since December. In addition, it "is cooperating with other governmental agencies which are conducting an in-depth investigation of these allegations," namely, the Justice Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service.

Committee Chairman Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) refused to elaborate on the announcement and declined to give the names of any senators being investigated.

However, those under investigation could include any of at least 25 senators, including Cannon, who have been named in depositions by Gulf lawyers in an SEC proceeding as possible recipients of Gulf largesse, channeled through former Gulf lobbyist Claude Wild from the early 1960s to 1972.

The depositions indicated that Wild had made the payments in cash, in some cases from corporate funds and in some cases from a so-called Good Government Voluntary Fund to which Gulf executives made private contributions.

Many of the senators mentioned in the depositions have stated that they have no records or recollection of the contributions, and have denied receiving them. Others said they had been assured that the money given them was from legal, voluntary funds.

Among those mentioned in the depositions and conceivably under investigation by the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct are Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), said to have received a \$20,000 annual fee for his law firm and then \$5,000 each spring and fall for personal and office expenses; Russell B. Long (D-La.), alleged to have received \$25,000 on one occasion and \$40,000 on another to give to fellow senators for office funds; presidential candidates Lloyd M. Bentsen (D-Tex.), \$2,000 in 1970, and Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), \$10,000 in 1972.

Others who were mentioned in depositions for varying amounts were Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) (\$25,000 in 1968), Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.), Harry F. Byrd Jr. (Ind.-Va.), J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.), Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.), Bill Brock (R-Tenn.) and Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.)

Others include Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii), Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.), Minority Whip Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), John G. Tower (R-Tex.), Robert Taft Jr. (R-Ohio), Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), John J. Sparkman (D-Ala.), John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), James B. Pearson (R-Kan.), Clifford P. Hansen (R-Wyo.) and James A. McClure (R-Idaho).

Formers Sens. Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.), Fred Harris (D-Okla.), a presidential candidate, Wallace F. Bennett (R-Utah) and Edwin L. Mechem (R-N.M.) were also mentioned in some depositions.

Under Senate rules, members each year submit to the General Accounting Office sealed envelopes containing their income tax returns and reports on fees received from law firms and other clients, the names of businesses in which they are officers, directors or partners and the amount of compensation received, trusts, gifts received and loans over \$5,000.