

# Nixon Campaign Trust's Woes

## Washington

The 1972 Campaign Liquidation Trust, the group that is trying to clean up the financial shambles left by the 1972 Republican presidential campaign and Watergate may have its considerable assets wiped out by pending tax claims.

Officials of the trust reported Saturday that if all Internal Revenue Service claims against it are upheld, "the resulting tax liability would probably exhaust the remaining assets of the trust," now about \$1.5 million.

This would mean that politicians, lawyers and former officeholders who claim more than \$680,-

000 of the remaining assets of the Nixon campaign would go unpaid, among them former attorney general John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans.

Stans has filed for more than \$155,000 worth of legal fees he encountered as a result of his involvement in various Watergate-related matters.

The latest report of the trust, filed Saturday with the Federal Election Commission, observed that all of the Stans claims "are under review by the trustees, and none of them has been approved for payment from trust funds."

The trust has already paid \$200,000 of the \$471,000 legal expenses of Mitchell in the unsuccessful conspiracy and perjury case brought against him and Stans. Presumably, if the trust goes bankrupt because of tax claims, Mitchell would be liable to his lawyers for the remaining \$271,000.

Established to distribute the surplus left from the 1972 Nixon campaign, the trust has decided to pay the legal expenses of some employees of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, who were charged with crimes as a result of their political activity, as well as to settle old campaign bills.

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