

Fund Scandal Lives On For Pennsylvania GOP

Philadelphia

When Senator Hugh Scott announced last December that he would not seek re-election, few Pennsylvania Republicans were saddened.

He had been accused of and had not denied taking money from the Gulf Oil Corp., and no one in the party's hierarchy wanted that sort of problem in this presidential year.

Now, although the 76-year-old minority leader is out of the race, the results of the Republican Senate primary here Tuesday may still hinge on that sort of scandal.

Representative H. John Heinz III, heir to the Pittsburgh food-processing fortune and the early favorite to win the nomination, is apparently in serious trouble because he has conceded that he too was a recipient of the giant company's political largess.

His two opponents, Arlen Specter, former Philadelphia district attorney, and George Packard, formerly the editor of a Philadelphia newspaper, have consistently raised the Gulf Oil question as a part of their campaigns — and politicians across the state this week were judging the contest as much too close to call.

In contrast, Representative William J. Green, the popular Philadelphian who took his father's seat in Congress in 1964, is the overwhelming favorite among the same politicians to win the Democratic Senate primary.

Ironically, Heinz, a 37-year-old millionaire who has spent more than a quarter of a million dollars of his own money in the current campaign, left himself vulnerable to the Gulf Oil charges by accepting a relatively insignificant amount of money — \$4000 — from the company a few years ago.

Both Packard and Specter have presented themselves to the voters as men who never have, never would have and never will take corporate funds. Apparently, the strategy has been successful.

Polls conducted both by the candidates and independently indicate that Heinz and Specter are running almost even, with Packard only a few percentage points behind.

New York Times