

Gulf Lobbyist Is Given Immunity for Testimony

Washington

The Watergate special prosecutor has granted a former Gulf Oil Co. lobbyist immunity from prosecution for testimony about payments he allegedly made to Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.) between 1963 and 1973, according to documents filed in U.S. District Court here.

The lobbyist, Claude Wild Jr., testified before a federal grand jury here January 27, just five days after arrangements for immunity were made. Disclosure of the agreement came in papers filed by Wild's attorney to seek the dismissal of a two-count indictment charging Wild with making illegal payments to the two U.S. senators.

The special prosecutor, Charles F. C. Ruff, refused to comment yesterday whether an investigation of Scott is being pursued.

"Gulf is an ongoing investigation," was the only comment from a spokesman for the special prosecutor.

Scott has repeatedly denied ever taking a retainer from Gulf or Wild and beyond that said that any money he received was a political contribution and that "no corporate funds were so received to my knowledge."

Scott, who is retiring from the Senate this year, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Wild, during 15 years as Gulf's Washington lobbyist, handled distribution of almost \$5.4 million in political funds, almost half of which went to federal candidates, according to an internal Gulf investigation.

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