

Senator's Version Of Gulf Oil Gift

Washington

Senator Daniel Inouye (Dem-Hawaii) said yesterday he accepted cash payments — without questioning their source — from a \$5000 campaign fund illegally contributed by a lobbyist for the Gulf Oil Corp.

Inouye testified for almost an hour as a government witness in the trial of Claude Wild, a former Gulf lobbyist charged with making the contribution in 1973 to the Hawaiian senator's reelection campaign fund.

The senator confirmed testimony by his administrative assistant, Henry Giugni, that Giugni gave Inouye about \$1200 in cash from the contribution to pay out-of-pocket expenses.

Giugni testified he had failed to report the cash contribution he was given in a plain white envelope at Gulf's Washington offices shortly after Wild attended a fund-raising dinner for Inouye at Washington's Georgetown Club on March 15, 1973.

"During the period when you accepted cash from Giugni when you could have gotten it by check you were a member of the Watergate committee which was considering among other things illegal presidential contributions," defense attorney Bill Hundley said. "Is that correct?"

"That is correct," Inouye replied.

The senator said he first questioned Giugni about the matter after Giugni testified before a grand jury on Sept. 10, 1975. Inouye said Giugni, long a close friend, said he was trying to avoid hurting both the senator and also Wild, another friend.

"I said the best way to hurt me is to keep up this type of nonsense," the senator testified.

Giugni said he never recorded the contribution as required by the 1972 campaign law, and did not tell Inouye about it until after he was summoned by a Watergate grand jury last September.

Giugni said that after he was summoned before the grand jury, he told Inouye he had failed to report Wild's contribution. He said Inouye "told me to tell the truth. If I get hurt, I've got to get hurt."

Giugni said he personally returned the \$5000 to Gulf in April. The special Watergate prosecutor granted him immunity from prosecution for his testimony at the Wild trial.

Wild admitted last Wednesday that he gave Giugni the \$5000 illegal cash contribution, but avoided pinpointing the date.

His defense is seeking to show the contribution might have been made before March 12, 1973, in which case Wild could not be prosecuted because of the statute of limitations.

United Press