

EX-LOBBYIST RECANTS ON 1970 GIFT TO DOLE

NYTimes — SEP 9 1976

Apologizes to Senator for 'Error'
on \$2,000 Gulf Oil Donation

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—A former Gulf Oil Corporation lobbyist, Claude C. Wild Jr., said today that he was "confident" he had been "in error" when he said that in 1970 he gave \$2,000 to Senator Robert J. Dole, now the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee.

Mr. Wild made a public apology to Mr. Dole, and the Kansas Senator accepted it.

Mr. Wild showed The New York Times today a stub for a \$2,000 check drawn against the Gulf Oil Corporation's lawful "Good Government Fund" on Oct. 9, 1970. On the stub was the name "Kleppe," the notation "not delivered" and under that the notation "given to Dole for disbursement by him." Mr. Wild said the notations were in his handwriting.

He explained, however, that since a series of press interviews Monday in which he said he gave Mr. Dole the money, he had come to believe that he had, in fact, placed the \$2,000 in a safety deposit box. He said he did not now know why he wrote on the check stub in 1970 the phrase "given to Dole for disbursement by him."

Mr. Wild said his present memory was

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that he left the \$2,000 lawful cash in a safety deposit box with Gulf Corporate funds that had been "laundered" through the Bahamas until March 28, 1972, when he combined it with \$500 of those laundered funds and delivered the money to Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee.

A group of lawyers who investigated Gulf, headed by John McCloy, publicly advised Senator Baker last year that they believed the \$2,500 was an illegal corporate contribution, and Senator Baker returned the money.

Mr. Wild said he made his "mistake" about giving the money to Senator Dole because he was "questioned unexpectedly, and before I had time to review my records of something that allegedly happened six years earlier. After looking at the records and materials I have, I am confident I have been in error and consequently have done a serious disservice to Senator Dole."

Testimony Unmentioned

On Monday, Mr. Wild made detailed statements to the National Broadcasting Company, the American Broadcasting Company and The New York Times.

He said at that time he had a letter to support his contention the money had gone to Mr. Dole.

Mr. Wild said today that he had been unable to locate the letter because his files were scattered in Gulf Oil's offices, at the Watergate special prosecutor's office or at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. Wild's statement today left unmentioned testimony he gave to a Federal

grand jury last January that in 1973 he had passed \$5,000 to \$6,000 to Senator Dole through William A. Kats, then Mr. Dole's administrative assistant. Both Mr. Dole and Mr. Kats have denied this allegation. Mr. Wild has never commented on a report about his testimony.

Mr. Dole, reached on Capitol Hill today, called the matter an "unfortunate incident" and added, "Let's get on with the campaign." He later attended a Cabinet conference this afternoon that he felt the "statement made this morning by Mr. Wild, I think, clarifies the situation very dramatically. We are satisfied today; we meeting with President Ford.

The President told newsmen at news were at the time we made the initial investigation of his Senator Dole's campaign finances."