

# Ethics Probe Of Sen. Scott Criticized

## Washington

Senate sources said yesterday that the ethics committee refused to call witnesses in its probe of alleged Gulf Oil Corp. payments to minority leader Hugh Scott (Rep.-Pa.) and refused to open Scott's sealed financial records or turn them over to the Internal Revenue Service.

The committee, meeting in closed session, voted 5 to 1 last week to drop its investigation of Scott and about two dozen other senators alleged to have received payments from Gulf, but only after rejecting a move by Senator Edward Brooke (Rep.-Mass.) to broaden the probe.

Sources who requested anonymity said that Brooke argued that without calling in Claude Wild Jr., the former Gulf lobbyist alleged to have paid Scott \$5000 each spring and fall for several years from corporate funds, and without opening the sealed financial statement which every senator must submit to the ethics committee annually, the committee really had not made a thorough investigation.

Brooke forced a vote on the issue last Wednesday and was defeated, 5 to 1. Brooke would have called in Wild, Royce Savage, another former Gulf official, and Thomas Wright, an attorney representing Gulf at one time, who had filed a court deposition alleging that Wild said he had paid large amounts from corporate funds to Scott and other senators.

Wild, Savage and Wright were to testify on allegations about Scott, according to the Brooke motion.

Chairman Howard Cannon (Dem.-Nev.) reportedly told the committee that Wild was expected to refuse to testify, so there wouldn't be any point in calling him.

In an appearance in mid-August before the committee, Scott said in closed session he received \$45,000 from Gulf, about \$20,000 of which he used for his own political campaigns. He said he gave the remaining \$25,000 to other senators (whom he listed) for their campaigns, according to sources. He has said he thought the money was from private rather than corporate funds and therefore a legal political campaign contribution. He repeatedly said he had kept the money for personal use.

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