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Watergate Prosecutor

New Interest in Dole Ledger

Washington

A 68-page ledger book has drawn renewed interest from the Watergate special prosecutor, who is investigating an alleged 1973 \$5000 Gulf Oil cash contribution to the re-election campaign of Senator Robert Dole (Rep-Kan.), according to informed sources.

The ledger purports to record all the cash received and spent during 1973 and 1974 in the Senator's re-election effort. It was kept by Joanne Coe, then Dole's personal secretary.

Former Gulf lobbyist Claude C. Wild Jr. testified to a grand jury that he gave \$5000 in cash to Dole's then-administrative assistant, William A. Kats.

The cashbook shows no listing of a contribution from Wild, and Dole, the GOP vice presidential nominee, has cited the book as proof that no Wild contribution was made.

Kats has said, "I just don't recall" receiving Gulf money. Kats has been questioned more than

once by the special prosecutor's staff.

The ledger's first ten pages were ripped out before it was first made available to the special prosecutor last March. The ledger's pages are numbered.

The list of cash contributions begins on page 11 of the ledger, and the first are dated April 17, 1973 — the day of a Washington \$100-a-ticket fund-raiser for the senator.

The Wild contribution allegedly was made some time before that, according to informed sources.

On the inside cover of the book Joanne Coe wrote that the record of cash receipts begins "on Page 9." Page 9 is one of the pages ripped out.

Coe has explained that she made some mistakes on Page 9 and, after tearing it out, began again on Page 11.

Investigators are attempting to determine whether a Wild contribution was listed on one of the missing pages and whether there

were any cash contributions from any source before April 1973, and not listed in the cashbook.

A review of the cashbook shows a possible violation of the federal campaign fund reporting laws.

Under the law then in effect, an organization spending cash was required to file in its public reports to the secretary of the senate expenditures above \$50.

In August 1973, according to the Dole ledger, three payments of \$100 each and a travel advance for \$97 were paid to Kats, who was accompanying the senator on a campaign swing, according to informed sources.

The 1973 records of Boosters for Dole, the senator's campaign organization, filed with the Secretary of the Senate, did not list the \$397 in cash paid to Kats.

The cashbook has never been made public, although Dole said on September 12 that "I'm willing to have my campaign records looked at."

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