

"Double speak designed to obfuscate prosecutorial abuse"
[See text p]

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Investigations of 1972 Campaign Financing and Related Matters

Beginning in June 1973, the Campaign Contributions task force systematically examined the campaign finances of major 1972 Republican and Democratic Presidential candidates. This examination included the investigation of several hundred separate transactions, including corporate and labor union contributions, recipients' non-reporting of contributions and expenditures, and alleged *quid pro quo* relationships between contributions and Government actions.

The task force began its inquiries on the basis of the following major sources of information:

1. A list of persons who had made large contributions to President Nixon's reelection campaign before April 7, 1972—the effective date of a new campaign law which required that contributions be reported publicly. The existence of this list, which was kept by the President's secretary, was initially disclosed in a civil suit brought by Common Cause against the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President (FCRP). WSPF later obtained the list from the White House.
2. Reports of pre-April 7 contributions to several Democratic candidates, which the candidates had made public.
3. Reports of post-April 7 contributions to candidates of both parties which had been filed with the General Accounting Office pursuant to the new law.
4. Referrals from the Internal Revenue Service.
5. Information obtained in the Watergate investigation about the sources and disposition of campaign funds used in the Watergate break-in and cover-up.
6. Newspaper articles, letters from citizens (many of them anonymous), and similar sources.

A variety of investigative methods were used. The prosecutors interviewed major Republican and Democratic fundraisers, including Herbert Kalmbach of FCRP, who cooperated with the office under an agreement involving his guilty plea to two charges (described elsewhere in this section). Agents of the FBI and IRS examined the campaign financial records of the major Presidential candidates and those Congressional candidates whose campaign finances, for various reasons, became relevant to matters directly within the jurisdiction of the Special Prosecutor. The prosecutors sent letters to about 50 known contributors asking them to telephone the office and answer certain questions. Many contributors were interviewed in person in WSPF's offices. FBI agents interviewed hundreds of employees and financial officers of corporations and unions and examined bank and corporate records; IRS agents took similar steps in cases that seemed to involve possible tax violations. In some cases, particularly when there was a suspicion of an explicit *quid pro quo* relationship between contributions and Government actions, WSPF attorneys conducted interviews of contributors, fundraisers, and Government officials. Witnesses were also called before the grand jury, especially when it appeared that attempts were being made to obstruct an investigation.