

Senators, representatives taking illegal contributions?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secret Justice Department files show two ship lines gave nearly \$6,000 in illegal campaign contributions for key members of Senate and House committees that control a rich flow of federal subsidies for the firms.

The largest contributions totaling \$1,500 went for Rep. Edward A. Garmatz, D-Md., chairman of the House Merchant Marine Committee. Another \$1,000 was given for Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, D-Wash., chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. In addition, both House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford and Democratic power Hale Boggs were among 15 congressmen and senators to whose campaigns the shipping firms have pleaded guilty to giving illegal donations.

The Garmatz and Magnuson committees approve subsidy programs which pay \$200 million a year in federal aid to American cargo and passenger ships. A House appropriations subcommittee actually votes the subsidy funds, and other checks went for the top four members of this panel.

The legislators' names were kept secret when the two firms, American President Lines and Pacific Far East were fined \$50,000 each—the maximum penalty—in federal court Feb. 6. They were charged under the Corrupt Practices Act, which forbids campaign donations by corporations.

Among those identified in the closely guarded files is Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D-S.C., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who is listed as getting a \$300 campaign check, although it was left out of the court case.

The Justice Department had shielded the names of the congressmen and senators because, government attorneys said, there was no indication they knew the contributions they received were illegal.

The checks were funneled from a special bank account through a public relations man and two lobbyists.

Asked about the checks, most of the various congressmen told The Associated Press they were unaware of accepting any unlawful contributions.

One check for \$500 went for Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes, D-Fla., when he was unopposed for reelection in 1966.

The check, payable to Sikes' campaign committee, appears to have been endorsed by Sikes when it was cashed through Congress' own bank in the Capitol.

The \$500 did not show up that year in a list, published in the Congressional Quarterly, of the campaign contributions reported by candidates in sworn statements to the House.

Sikes said he would have to check his records, but added, "If I accepted an illegal contribution, I intend to refund it."

The Justice Department files, which includes copies of the canceled checks, also list a \$100 contribution made for Ford; \$200 for Boggs, who is House Democratic whip; and \$100 for the GOP whip, Rep. Leslie C. Arends of Illinois.

Ford said, "It is my policy

never to accept a contribution from a corporation and I have followed that policy religiously."

The two San Francisco firms' contributions, counting the smaller checks to Ford and others not on the shipping committees, totaled at least \$8,500 and ranged from 1966 to 1968. They included: —\$1,000 for Garmatz from American President Lines and \$500 for Pacific Far East. Garmatz has represented Baltimore's waterfront district in Congress since 1947 and took over the House Merchant Marine Committee half a year before the illegal checks were given in 1966.

—A total of \$1,000—half from each firm—for Rep. William S. Mailliard, the top-ranking Republican on Garmatz' committee. Mailliard, a Navy Reserve rear admiral from San Francisco, said he never handled campaign contributions personally. He said, "If my campaign committee received a check signed by an individual, they would have assumed it was legal."

—\$1,000 for Sen. Magnuson from American President Lines prior to his 1968 race for reelection. An aide to Magnuson said all his contributions also were handled through a campaign treasurer and added, "The senator has no personal knowledge of receiving any such check."

—\$800 for Rep. John J. Rooney, D-N.Y., a Brooklyn veteran of a quarter-century in Congress, now chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee which funds the flow of subsidies for shipping firms. Rooney said he didn't recall ever receiving checks from any corporation.

—\$800 for Rep. Frank T. Bow of Ohio, the senior Republican on both Rooney's subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee. Bow said the checks, signed by the public relations man as an individual, were brought in by the two lobbyists and turned over to his campaign committee. He said, "We have no knowledge whatsoever that this was a corporation contribution."

—\$300 for Rep. Elford A. Cedberg, R-Mich. Sikes is the second-ranking Democrat and Cedberg the No. 2 Republican on the same appropriations subcommittees.

—\$500 each for Sens. Daniel B. Brewster, D-Md., and Thomas H. Kuchel, R-Calif., both of whom were beaten in their 1968 races. Brewster, currently under indictment for bribery in an unrelated case, was a key Senate supporter of shipping interests.

—\$500 for the late Rep. Gleason P. Lipscomb, R-Calif. Iron-

ically, American President Lines pleaded guilty to this count along with the others, even though the indictment was in error and listed the Lipscomb check as involving a congressional race in the wrong state, Colorado.

—\$100 each for Reps. Thomas L. Ashley, D-Ohio, and Jack Edwards, R-Ala., both members of the House Merchant Marine Committee when the contributions were made. An Edwards aide said the check would not have been accepted if the campaign staff had known it came from a corporation.

American President Lines is currently receiving \$34 million a year in federal subsidies for 24 cargo ships and two luxury cruise ships.

Pacific Far East is getting nearly \$9 million a year in federal aid for 10 cargo ships.

The subsidies go mainly to make up the difference in the higher wages for American seamen as compared to foreign crews.

The Justice Department took the cases against the two firms to a grand jury after the Internal Revenue Service found the companies had deducted the political payments on their tax returns.

The companies, which had similar ownership in 1966 when most of the contributions were made, had channeled the money through a special bank account set up in the name of a public relations man in San Francisco.

The public relations man then signed and forwarded the checks to two lobbyists in Washington who distributed them.

"All I ever was was the intermediary. They would send checks, I'd have a congressman to lunch, and present him the contribution," said Noah C. Brinson, now retired as a lobbyist for American President Lines.

The Justice Department attorneys handling the case expressed surprise when told a lobbyist had said checks were given personally to some congressmen. They conceded that they made no effort to ask the legislators whether they knew the checks were coming from the corporations through a special bank account.

The department drew up the indictments so that they would deliberately include 10 checks for Republicans and 10 for Democrats.

As a result, the check for \$300 for Rep. Rivers was left out. The last Democratic spot in the list of charges against American President Lines went, instead, to the larger \$500 check for Sikes.

Lard now Ag dean

Dr. Curtis F. Lard, associate professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University, has been appointed as assistant dean in the College of Agriculture.

Dr. H. O. Kunkel, dean of agriculture, said Lard's duties will cover resident instruction. The economist will work closely with Dr. R. C. Potts, associate dean of instruction.

Lard also will keep his associate professorship in agricultural economics, Kunkel said.

"Dr. Lard has demonstrated that he has a sincere interest in students and their development," Kunkel said. "He has served as a member of scholarship committees, co-chairman of career days, club advisor, Agricultural Council representative, and advisor to undergraduate and graduate students."

The professor came to Texas

A&M in 1967 from the University of Tennessee. His teaching specialty is agricultural production economics, and his research centers on financial management and farm and business firm growth.

The agricultural economist is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grady W. Lard of Savannah in Tennessee. He received his BS degree from the University of Tennessee in 1957 and his MS and PhD degrees from Michigan State University in 1959 and 1963.

Lard has 20 publications to his credit. He is a member of the American Agricultural Economics Association, Southern Agricultural Economics Association, American Economics Association, Western Farm Economics Association, the Institute of Management Sciences, Operations Research Society of America, and is listed in "American Men of Social Sciences."

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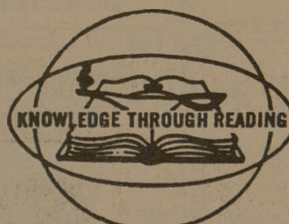
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