

Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., is shown defending himself before the Senate Ethics Committee yesterday. Brooke denied that he or his lawyers had tried to thwart a probe of his financial affairs.

Brooke accused of altering check stubs

special counsel to the Senate Ethics Committee charged Tuesday that Sen. Edward Brooke's lawyers altered check stubs and financial ledger entries to bring the records into line with Brooke's current statements.

The senator and his lawyer, Charles Morin, denied there had been any attempt to conceal information or mislead the committee in its probe of Brooke's financial affairs.

Brooke said that would be "a very sinister, almost a criminal act," and Morin said the changes made merely reflected efforts "to correct obvious clerical errors."

The exchanges occurred at a special Ethics Committee meeting designed to bring Brooke face-to-face — at his own request — with his accuser, attorney Richard Wertheimer.

Wertheimer, who quit the panel's Brooke investigation in a conflict over production of evidence, issued a 54-page statement detailing his allegation that Brooke's lawyers impeded the financial probe by altering certain documents and delaying the turn-over of others.

Brooke in turn said he had instructed his lawyers to cooperate fully with the committee.

"I want the record to show that I have at all times tried to give full cooperation in any manner that I could," he said. Wertheimer said he discovered

changes in check stubs from the

comparing the documents he received from Brooke with the same materials received independently from Brooke's

It was their bitter divorce action that prompted the ethics panel to start invèstigating discrepancies between the financial disclosure information Brooke had given the Senate and the information he gave the divorce court.

"The corrections share one common theme," Wertheimer told the panel. "They are all for the purpose of making these consistent with the current position of Senator Brooke and concealing prior evidence to the contrary.'

Wertheimer discussed three check stubs Brooke's lawyers later admitted to "correcting." They were:

-An Oct. 4, 1972, deposit originally described as "Bank of Montreal -\$27,500 - loan on Unicom stock." He said those words were "totally obliterated" so as to make the deposit appear to be a return of capital, which does not have to be listed in Brooke's Senate financial disclosure statements, rather than a loan, which does.

-A March 6, 1972, check originally identified as a stock purchase on behalf of the estate of Brooke's mother-in-law. He said the notation was changed to conceal the link with the estate so that Brooke's previous testimony of only one such investment would not be con-

Westinghouse Electric's guilty plea rejected

WASHINGTON (AP) — A guilty plea by the Westinghouse Electric Corp. in connection with a bribe to a foreign official was rejected yesterday by a federal judge who was angered at the government's refusal to reveal publicly the names of those involved in the case.

U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker refused to accept a negotiated plea that called for the company to plead guilty to 30 counts of filing false statements with the government and pay \$300,000 in fines.

The agreement provided that names of Westinghouse employees involved, the foreign official who received the money and the country where the payoff occurred would be withheld, and that no criminal charges would be brought against any individuals.

Westinghouse lawyers. "Gentlemen, I will leave you to other alternatives.

The Justice Department said lawyers were examining their options — to drop the case, move for a trial or disclose the information about the foreign country and official involved.

The case involves a \$322,000 payoff made between 1974 and 1977 in connection with unspecified contracts worth more than \$30 million.

The proposed settlement was presented to Parker on Monday, but he withheld a decision until he could examine a sealed document explaining the govern-

"I will not accept it," Parker told government and ment's reasons for concealing the identities of the principals.

> Assistant Attorney General D. Jeffrey Hirschberg said it was "in the interest of the United States" to withhold the information.

> Terrence Adamson, chief spokesman for the Justice Department, said the decision was based on foreign policy considerations in which other U.S. agencies participated.

> Adamson said such decisions are made on a case-bycase basis and that the decision not to disclose the information in this case was made at the Justice Department's initiative.



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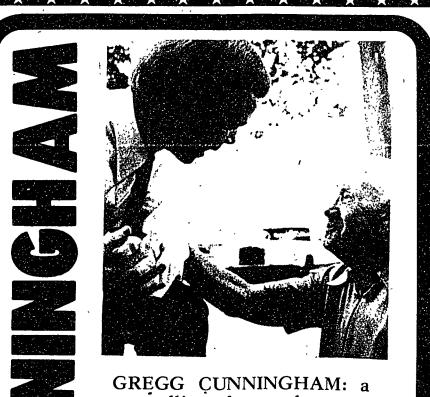


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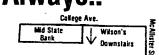
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