

GOP Probers Seeking 'Dirty Tricks' of Foes

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The Republican staff of the Senate select Watergate committee has been interviewing top Democratic Party and McGovern campaign officials in an effort to uncover any "dirty tricks" perpetrated by the Democrats during the 1972 campaign.

Among those interviewed in informal meetings with the committee's minority Republican staff have been Lawrence F. O'Brien, former chairman of both the Democratic National Committee and the McGovern campaign, and former McGovern campaign leaders Gary Hart, Frank Mankiewicz, and Henry Kimelman.

O'Brien and Joseph A. Califano Jr., former general counsel to the Democratic National Committee, also have been subpoenaed to testify today under oath in closed executive session before at least one senator on the committee from each party.

At the same time, the committee will resume its public hearings today beginning at 10 a.m. with convicted Republican political saboteur Donald H. Segretti as the first scheduled witness. CBS News announced yesterday that it will televise all of today's session de-

See HEARINGS, A9, Col. 1



LAWRENCE F. O'BRIEN
... under subpoena



GARY HART
... "couldn't help them"

HEARINGS, From A1

spite a 2-to-1 vote by the major networks last week, with CBS dissenting, to discontinue rotating live coverage of the hearings.

The closed sessions to which the Democratic Party figures have been subpoenaed to testify will be conducted simultaneously with this week's public hearings, at which testimony is expected about Republican campaign espionage and sabotage.

Other Democratic figures known to have been subpoenaed to appear at the closed sessions are former deputy Democratic National Committee chairman Stanley Griegg and former O'Brien aide John Stewart, both subpoenaed for Thursday. Stewart Mott, who contributed \$350,000 to Sen. George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, has been subpoenaed for Friday.

"Essentially what's going on is that they're calling in all the Democrats to find some dirty tricks and it's really laughable," one committee staff source, closely tied to the Democrats, said yesterday. "The pickings have been mighty slim."

Another Democratic source on the committee described the effort by the minority as a "tough, partisan Republican operation. They are just determined to find something."

Neither minority counsel Fred Thompson, committee vice chairman Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), nor Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) responded to repeated calls asking them for comments yesterday.

Although heartened by what was perceived as a favorable impression made as a witness last week by White House aide Patrick J. Buchanan, Baker and Gurney were described by one committee staff source as being eager to demonstrate that Republicans "weren't the only guys doing something wrong."

According to another committee staff source, both Baker and Thompson, who is also from Tennessee, have said privately that they are getting "heat from back home" urging them to present evidence against the

Democrats. Thompson has been given the three hearing days next week to present whatever witnesses, if any, that the minority wants to call, this source said.

According to former McGovern officials already interviewed, the minority staff spent several hours with them trying to determine if the Democrats had a "double agent" who told them in advance about the Watergate break-in and whether the Democrats conducted any "dirty tricks"—campaign sabotage and espionage—against each other in the primaries or against President Nixon in the general election. In both instances, according to those contacted by The Washington Post, the minority staff was given negative answers.

"They're trying to throw up dust, at least raise some doubts in the public mind," one member of the committee's majority staff said of the minority staff investigation. "They're operating under some conspiracy theories and they just don't hold water."

Hart, who was McGovern's campaign director, said yesterday that he was interviewed by the minority staff on Sept. 8, with Richard L. Schultz asking most of the questions. Schultz, formerly the associate chief counsel of the House Internal Security Committee, was identified by several others interviewed by the minority staff as being the person who asked most of the questions.

Hart said the staff interviewed him for about four or five hours, concentrating on how the McGovern campaign was financed and on possible dirty tricks. Referring to dirty tricks, Hart said, "I couldn't help them out on that. To my knowledge, we didn't do any."

In addition, Hart said he was asked "if we had anyone operating in the Republican operation or the Nixon operation at all, and I said no, the idea of a double agent was a farce. I thought

it was a ridiculous suggestion."

Since the hearings began May 17, both Baker and Gurney have explored with various witnesses in the hearings the notion that a "Doyle agent" told the Democrats about the Watergate break-in advance but the Democrats permitted the break-in to occur in order to embarrass the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

During the testimony of confessed Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. last week, Gurney elicited from Hunt the charge that Alfred C. Baldwin III was a double agent. Baldwin, who was not indicated for his part in the Watergate operation in return for cooperating with federal prosecutors, has denied the charge under oath.

Commenting on the "double agent" theory yesterday, Hart said, "They made it sound like if someone was a double agent, then none of it mattered, which is ridiculous."

Mankiewicz, who was McGovern's national political coordinator, said yesterday that he told the minority staff, when interviewed sometime after Labor Day, that the Democrats had had no spy in the "Watergate ring."

Mankiewicz said that Schultz also "was interested in any dirty tricks that we did, but he was almost apologetic about it. It was clear that we hadn't done any."

Ted Van Dyk, director of issues and research for McGovern during the campaign, said he was asked similar questions during an interview with Schultz and other minority staff members Monday. "They were fair, but exhaustive questions about every primary, details of the campaign," Van Dyk said. "They still think we had a double agent or staged the whole Watergate thing as a means of smearing the Republicans."

Van Dyk, Hart and Mankiewicz all said they were asked about an incident in Los Angeles in September,

1972, when antiwar demonstrators allegedly used telephones at a McGovern headquarters to organize a demonstration against President Nixon.

As reported in October, 1972, an official of McGovern's California campaign denied a Republican charge that the demonstrators had been permitted to use the phones. The official, Lew Hass, acknowledged that the demonstrators had, in fact, used the phones. "When we found out about it, we stopped it immediately," Hass said.

Hart said he told the minority staff that "to my knowledge, none of our people organized any kind of demonstration in California against the President."

Van Dyk, Hart and Mankiewicz said they were all questioned about the activities of Dick Tuck, a sometime political prankster who has been cited by the Republicans as playing "dirty tricks" on Republican candidates. Mankiewicz said that Tuck worked for him "off and on" through the Democratic convention in July, 1972, but that Tuck played no pranks "that I was aware of." Tuck went off the McGovern payroll after the convention, Mankiewicz said, because there was no money to pay him.

All of the persons contacted by The Washington Post who had been interviewed by the minority staff said that they had not been told yet whether they would be called to testify in open session before the committee.