

Testimony Ties Top Nixon Aide To Secret Fund

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and Bob Woodward *10/25/72*
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H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's White House chief of staff, was one of five high-ranking presidential associates authorized to approve payments from a secret Nixon campaign cash fund, according to federal investigators and accounts of sworn testimony before the Watergate grand jury.

The secret fund, which at times totaled \$700,000, was uncovered during the FBI's Watergate bugging investigation. It financed an apparently unprecedented spying and sabotage campaign against Democratic presidential candidates that was conceived by high Nixon aides, according to federal investigators.

Haldeman, 47, is generally considered the man closest to President Nixon in the White House and the primary architect of his re-election campaign. He began his political association with the President in 1956, as an advance man for Mr. Nixon's vice presidential campaign.

Informed yesterday of the information obtained by The Washington Post, Haldeman issued the following statement through the White House press office:

"Your inquiry is based on misinformation because the reference to Bob Haldeman is untrue."

Haldeman and Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, refused to elaborate on the statement.

According to the sworn testimony, others authorized to approve payments from the fund, all of them among President Nixon's closest confidantes and all named in previous reports by The Washington Post, are:

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who resigned as Mr. Nixon's campaign manager July 1; former Secretary of Commerce Maurice C. Stans, the finance chairman of the Nixon re-election campaign; Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former White House assistant to Haldeman and now deputy director of Mr.



H. R. (Bob) HALDEMAN
... Nixon's most trusted aide

Nixon's re-election campaign, and Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's personal lawyer who, until April 7, served as associate finance chairman of the Nixon campaign.

The Post has been told that all five were named in testimony to the grand jury by Hugh W. Sloan Jr., the former treasurer of the Nixon campaign. Sources close to the investigation said they had confirmed independently of Sloan that the five men had control of the fund.

It was learned that all five men have been questioned by the FBI about disbursements from the fund, which was kept in a safe in Stans' office.

See **WATERGATE**, A12, Col. 1

Haldeman's power vast. Page A11.