

BELLINO ACCUSED OF SPYING IN 1960

Bush Made Allegations—
Talmadge, Gurney and
Inouye to Take Case

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 —

the Senate Watergate committee began an investigation today of charges against its chief investigator, Carmine S. Bellino.

At an executive session late yesterday, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the committee chairman, named two Democrats, Senators Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia and Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, and a republican, Senator Edward J. Gurney of Florida, to look into accusations against Mr. Bellino made by George Bush, the Republican national chairman.

Last week Mr. Bush charged that Mr. Bellino headed an espionage operation in the 1960 Presidential campaign of John F. Kennedy that may have included the use of electronic surveillance.

Rufus L. Edmisten, the Watergate committee's deputy counsel, said today that the Senators had "already begun" to look into the case.

'Serious Violations'

He said that the subcommittee members would examine the evidence, presented by Mr. Bush and then talk with Mr. Bellino. No public interrogation is being considered now, he added.

Mr. Edmisten conceded that among other things the inquiry was being undertaken to demonstrate the "balance" and "nonpartisan" approach of the committee, which is primarily investigating 1972 Republican campaign activities.

Last week Mr. Bush called upon the Watergate committee to conduct an investigation immediately in the interest of "fairness" and to show that "some balance" prevailed. He said that "serious violations of the public trust have gone on prior to Watergate [and] it is a gross distortion to microscopically analyze one campaign and totally ignore what others have done in other campaigns."

Mr. Bush, a former Representative from Texas and Ambassador to the United Nations, based his charges principally on three affidavits.

In one affidavit, John W.



Associated Press

Carmine S. Bellino

Leon, a private investigator who died July 13, said that he had overheard a conversation between two other investigators that led him to believe Richard M. Nixon's office space or telephone had been bugged in the 1960 campaign.

In another affidavit, Edward M. Jones, the man accused of the bugging, swore that he had never conducted electronic surveillance of any type during that campaign.

Mr. Bush's third affidavit, from Joseph Shimon, a retired investigator and one-time captain of the Metropolitan Police Force in Washington, said that Oliver W. Angelone, another investigator, had asked him, assertedly on Mr. Bellino's instructions, to help in bugging the hotel quarters of unidentified Republicans here in 1960.

Mr. Shimon's sworn statement said he had immediately rejected the request. But Mr. Angelone insisted that the request had never been made.

"It's absolutely unbelievable," Mr. Angelone said. "I don't know why Simon would be saying this. It's absolutely untrue."

'Malicious Lies'

Mr. Bush has said that he could not vouch for the truth of the charges, but would like to see a further investigation conducted. He said the information had been presented to him by Jerris Leonard, a former Justice Department official in the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Bellino, a longtime Congressional investigator and Kennedy family friend, has denounced the charges as "false and malicious lies."

The 67-year-old accountant and detective, who has been examining 1972 Republican campaign finances for the Watergate committee, said that the accusations were intended to distract him from his work.

After Mr. Bush made his charges, 21 Republican Senators asked that Mr. Bellino be suspended from the committee staff and investigated. However, Mr. Bellino is continuing in his post while the subcommittee looks into the matter.