

Mitchell, Stans Among 4 Sued in Calif. Politics Case

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SAN FRANCISCO, May 18—Two former Nixon Cabinet members were sued in San Francisco Superior Court today in a complaint charging that stationery was stolen from the California Committee for Eugene McCarthy headquarters and a forged letter mailed out urging McCarthy supporters to vote for Hubert Humphrey in the 1972 California primary.

Named as defendants in the \$220,000 suit were Donald S. Segretti, Herbert Kalmbach, Maurice Stans, John Mitchell, the Committee for the Re-election of the President and 15 "John Doe's."

Mitchell, the former Attorney General, and Stans, former Secretary of Commerce, are under indictment in New York on charges of obstruction of justice and perjury. Segretti is under indictment in Florida for allegedly distributing phony campaign letters. Kalmbach

is Mr. Nixon's personal attorney.

The suit was brought by Barbara Barron, a member of the California Committee for McCarthy, Jonathan J. Wilcox, a San Francisco lawyer who was chairman of the committee, and by the committee itself.

The suit alleges that letterhead stationery was stolen from McCarthy campaign headquarters and that on May 19, 1972—19 days before the primary—1,000 forged letters, bearing Miss Barron's signature, were mailed from Los Angeles to McCarthy backers throughout the state.

The letter said that "anything that can be done to stop McGovern would be helpful," but cautions that "it should not be done in the name of McCarthy."

The letter said, in part: "Realistically the race in California is now between Sen. McGovern and Sen. Humphrey. The latest polls indicate it will be a close election.

"It has been decided that a win by Sen. Humphrey would benefit our cause more than a win by Sen. McGovern."

Later in the text, the letter says: "Accordingly, we ask you to unofficially support Sen. Humphrey on June 6. We realize Sen. McGovern's views are more attuned to Gene's, but this sacrifice is necessary."

The suit says that both Miss Barron and the committee have been subjected to hatred and contempt because of the phony letter. She and the committee each ask \$100,000 punitive damages and \$10,000 general damages.