Newsmen Subpoenaed For Watergate Notes

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Republican attorneys in the civil suits arising from the Watergate bugging yesterday issued subpoenas seeking testimony and notes from 11 reporters and officials of The Washington Post, The Washington Star-News, the New York Times and Time magazine.

Kenneth Wells Parkinson, attorney for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said subpoenas were also issued for Walter Sheridan, a former Justice Department aide who did investigative work for the Democrats; Paul W. Leper, a D.C. policeman, and Frank Wills, a building guard at the Watergate.

Three civil suits grew out of the arrest of five men who, along with two others, were subsequently convicted or pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping at the Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate.

In one suit, former Democratic Party Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien is seeking $3.2 million in damages from two of the Watergate defendants and from Maurice Stans, the former Commerce secretary and finance chairman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

In the other two suits, Stans is suing O'Brien for $5 million for libel and $2.5 million for willful and malicious abuse of process.

Subpoenas were issued yesterday for Katharine Graham, publisher of The Washington Post; Howard Simons, The Post's managing editor, and Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward and former reporter Jim Mann.

Also subpoenaed were reporters Jeremiah O'Leary, James Polk, Patrick Collins and Joseph Volz, all of the Star-News, John Crewdson, of The New York Times, and Dean Fischer, of Time.

Representatives of Time and the Star-News could not be reached for comment.

Benjamin Bradlee, executive editor of The Post, said it would be up to lawyers to determine what response The Post will make to the subpoenas.

James Goodale, senior vice president of The New York Times, said, "We're obviously against the production of notes" but that The Times also had not determined what response to make.