

Watergate Documents Sought From Ziegler

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The Democratic National Committee has issued a subpoena demanding that White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler produce any and all written or electronic materials he may have relating to the planning, financing, execution or "cover-up" of the Watergate break-in.

Attorneys for the committee made the demand in a subpoena filed yesterday in U.S. District Court here, requiring Ziegler to give a deposition July 23 in the Democratic civil suit against the Committee For the Rejection of the President.

The Democrats also demanded that Ziegler produce "all documents, correspondence, records, memoranda audio and/or video tapes . . . relating to briefings received by you prior to the issuance of any release or the holding of any press conferences . . ." relating to Watergate.

When asked to comment on the Democratic subpoena, Ziegler said:

"When the Democratic Committee has made a public announcement of a subpoena before it's even received, it makes it a little difficult to give you a reaction. But I, of course, respect our judicial system and the right it provides to

ask an individual to be a witness."

The subpoena was not personally handed to Ziegler, who was with the President in Kansas City, Mo., yesterday, but it was delivered to the White House, according to an attorney for the Democratic National Committee.

Maurice R. Dunie an attorney for the committee, said yesterday the committee is particularly interested in hearing from Ziegler at this time because of former White House counsel John Dean's testimony before the Ervin committee.

"There were references in the Dean testimony to briefings of Ziegler," said Dunie, "and we want to know who told him what."

Dean testified that on several occasions Ziegler was told how to respond to press questions concerning Watergate. However, Dean also testified that Ziegler was never briefed about alleged White House involvement in the Watergate break-in or cover-up.

The subpoena issued yesterday by the Democratic National Committee bears the seal of the U.S. District Court. A person who ignores such a subpoena could, conceivably, be held in contempt of court.