

McGovern Ascribes the Spying And Sabotage to Nixon Directly

By George Lardner Jr.

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DETROIT, Oct. 25—Sen. George McGovern blamed President Nixon directly today for "the whole, ugly mess" of GOP-financed spying and sabotage that has come to light since the Watergate break-in.

McGovern said The Washington Post's report that White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman shared control of a secret Nixon campaign fund already linked to one of the burglary suspects showed "that the chain of scandal and corruption runs to the very

heart of Mr. Nixon's White House operation."

Despite flat denials of the Haldeman report from the White House and elsewhere in the Republican high command, McGovern said in Milwaukee this morning that he believed it and campaigned throughout the day on that assumption.

The charges embellished the Democratic presidential candidate's basic theme in a nationwide telecast, taped Monday and broadcast tonight, that the Nixon administration and campaign apparatus has mounted an underhanded effort against the Democratic Party that has no precedent in American politics.

"... for the first time in the history of America, we have officials right at the top of the government who have betrayed their public trust, who have let down the moral standards of the United States," the South Dakota senator charged in a Cleveland television interview before flying here this afternoon.

Asked on landing here whether he meant to include Mr. Nixon himself in that indictment, McGovern said: "Yes, because his top people, including Haldeman, are directly involved."

"Either the President is running this miserable operation or he has lost control of his campaign," McGovern said.

Similarly, the South Dakotan told a noon-hour crowd

at Cleveland State University that "next to Mr. Nixon himself, the most powerful man in the White House is H. R. Haldeman. He's the White House chief of staff. He's closer to the President than any other living human being. . . . I say today to Mr. Nixon, it is time for him to come out of hiding and answer to the American people for these shocking events."

In the half-hour television address, which McGovern called "perhaps the most important" of his campaign, the Democratic candidate attacked the administration not only for political sabotage and spying but for what he described as a clear record of coziness with special interests and contempt for the Constitution.

As cases in point, McGovern cited:

- "A special exemption from price controls" for the Combined Insurance Company of Chicago whose chairman (W. Clement Stone) gave \$500,000 to Mr. Nixon in the 1968 campaign and "has said that he plans to give \$1,000,000 this year."

- "Seven days after he had dinner at the White House," McGovern said of the millionaire executive without naming him, "the Price Commission gave his company special exemption from price controls."

- A White House meeting "between executives of the carpet industry and top offi-

cial of the Republican campaign." Although the death of 38 elderly residents in a 1970 nursing home fire had led to proposals for stronger carpet safety regulations, McGovern said, the executives gave almost \$95,000 for Mr. Nixon's re-election. "And the carpet safety regulations were postponed."

- Contributions of \$322,000 to Mr. Nixon's campaign last year by dairy farm lobbyists who had been pressing for higher milk price supports. They had been turned down by the Secretary of Agriculture, but he reversed his decision shortly after another White House meeting with spokesmen for the dairy lobbies that produced the contributions.

"These activities do not demonstrate the moral standards that I believe America wants and expects," McGovern said. "What they represent is the immoral influence of big money on the public business."

The charges had been raised earlier by both McGovern and his national political coordinator, Frank Mankiewicz.

Turning to what he regards as the "constitutional crisis" that Mr. Nixon has posed for the nation, McGovern accused him of "demeaning . . . our judicial system" with his controversial Supreme Court nominations, of abusing executive power in invading Cambodia, and of weakening the



United Press International

With flags waving in a chill breeze, Sen. McGovern addresses enthusiastic crowd at Cleveland State University.

First Amendment "by a savage effort to intimidate the press."

"Ambitious men come and go," McGovern said, "but a free society might never recover from a sustained assault on its most basic institutions. One can only ask, if this has happened in four years to what lengths would the same

leadership go in another four years, once freed of the restraints of facing the people for re-election?"

Since the Watergate break-in at Democratic national headquarters last June, McGovern added, it has since come out that the incident was only part "of a nationwide network of at least 50 agents

hired by the Nixon campaign" to wreak havoc on Democratic presidential candidates with phony statements, bugging devices, forged letters, and scheduling mischiefs.

The speech was televised nationally and has fouled the political atmosphere for all of us who

"These Republican politicians see public service as a high

calling," McGovern charged. "They do not seek to defeat the Democratic Party, they seek to destroy it."

tionally on the American Broadcasting Co. network with supplemental broadcasts on other stations in cities where the time could be purchased. It was shown on all three networks here, for example.