

Bugging Probe a Whitewash: McG

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. George McGovern yesterday charged that the Justice Department, on orders from the White House, whitewashed the grand jury investigation into the Watergate bugging case to cover up who ordered and paid for "this act of political espionage."

The White House declined comment.

The Democratic presidential nominee made the accusation a day after a federal grand jury indicted seven men, including two former White House aides, on charges of attempting to steal documents and install electronic listening devices June 17 after breaking into Democratic headquarters at the Watergate hotel - apartment complex.

None of the defendants currently serves in President Nixon's administration or on his re-election campaign staff. A Justice Department spokesman said the government had "absolutely no evidence" to warrant prosecution of any other individuals. There is virtually no chance the case

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will go to trial before the Nov. 7 elections.

Top to Bottom

McGovern challenged the results of the investigation from top to bottom.

"The Nixon administration asks us to believe that the Watergate five, plus two lowly White House operatives, dramed up and carried out this shabby scheme to spy on the Democratic Party all on their own, with no authority from above," the South Dakota Senator

"I charge that the failure of the grand jury to determine who ordered and paid for this act of political espionage and who received the stolen information, was engineered by the White House through its Attorney General, Mr. Kleindienst."

Asked if he had any further information to document his claims, McGovern replied:

"The evidence is that none of the important questions

were answered."

The Democratic candidate said the grand jury said some conversations originating in the Democratic offices were monitored for three weeks before the June break-in, but that the panel offered no clue to how or when the earlier eavesdropping equipment was planted.

He also recalled that congressional auditors have told the Justice Department that \$114,000 in Republican campaign contributions were channeled through the Nixon Re-Election Committee last April before being deposited in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker, one of the five men arrested at the scene.

"Who contributed the \$114,000 that paid off the spies for their work?" McGovern demanded.

Counsel's Consultant

Indicted with Barker and his four cohorts were G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt. Liddy, 42, an ex-FBI agent, Treasury Department official and White House consultant, served as counsel to the Nixon's Re-Election Committee when the break-in occurred and was fired when he refused to answer FBI questions about the affair.

Hunt 54, was a \$100-a-day consultant to Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President, until last spring.

The indictment said both Hunt and Liddy fled the Watergate just before police arrived and thus escaped arrest.

The indictment made no

mention of two other figures linked previously to the incident — former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, who now is finance chairman of the Nixon Re-Election Committee, and former Attorney General John Mitchell, the President's campaign manager until July 1 when he resigned.

Kleindienst defended the scope of the grand jury investigation, contending it was "one of the most intensive, objective and thorough in many years."

And a Justice Department spokesman said that although the bugging inquiry was over, federal investigators still were reviewing the report filed by the General Accounting Office that traced the \$114,000 in GOP campaign contributions to Barker's bank.

said.

"I charge that the Nixon administration commanded that the Democratic bugging cases be whitewashed by the Justice Department and the grand jury under its control.