

O'Brien Offers a 'Fable' On Politics in the 1970s

By George Murphy

Senator George McGovern's national campaign chairman, Lawrence O'Brien, in a speech here yesterday deplored "the cynicism in America today" held by citizens toward government and politicians.

"There is a lack of confidence in our system because of the failure of our present political leaders," he told an audience of some 85 members of Northern California Public Officials for McGovern-Shriver in a luncheon address.

"There are divisions in this country greater than four years ago; we have political espionage, attempted sabotage and actions that border on a police state."

QUESTION

O'Brien, who was one of the late President Kennedy's closest White House advisers, asked his audience:

"Imagine this, if you will. It is 1963, and President Kennedy is planning for the 1964 election.

"Then Ted Sorensen (another Kennedy confidante) and Larry O'Brien are caught in the middle of the night, trying to bug the Republican headquarters.

"It is learned that Attorney General Robert Kennedy maintained a secret fund for political espionage.

"It is also learned that some of this fund is kept in Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges' safe, and that Ken O'Donnell, the President's appointments secretary, is closely involved with the operation.

"But the White House Press Secretary, Pierre Salinger, will not dignify the charges by answering them.

"And the polls say the episodes have no impact on the campaign.

"President Kennedy either condoned the actions or failed to control his closest associates."

O'Brien then said: "An incredible fable?"

"That, my friends is what has happened in the past few months. Just fill in the current names."

PAMPHLETS

Earlier, at a press conference, O'Brien charged that the Nixon Administration has spent "untold thousands of dollars of public money" to send pamphlets to senior citizens "purporting to tell how the Nixon Administration has met the problem of the aging."

The pamphlets, O'Brien

said, "all of which mention Mr. Nixon by name and include quotations from Mr. Nixon as well as photographs of him and members of his family, are sheer political propaganda.

"This incident, which will surely go unreprimated by the appropriate agencies of this Administration, is merely one more abuse by Mr. Nixon's Administration of the legitimate operations of the Federal government, which Richard Nixon seems to regard as little more than an annex to his campaign committee."

O'Brien also said he was "not concerned" about the activities of former Treasury Secretary John Connally, who heads Democrats for Nixon.

"I refuse to accept the contention that there are millions of Democrats who



LAWRENCE O'BRIEN
McGovern aide

will pull that lever for Richard Nixon on November 7," he said.