

RE-ELECTION UNIT OF NIXON GROWING

Campaign Staff Busy Now on Watergate Matters

WASHINGTON, April 5 (AP)—A re-election unit for President Nixon was announced today by the chairman of the re-election committee. The unit is still in business and about to enlarge its staff.

It has become in effect a committee for response and rebuttal against an expected President Nixon's campaign personnel and the headlines, rumors and allegations that stem from the Watergate wire tapping.

The operation is tiny compared with that of the campaign period. The roster will number about a dozen persons with the addition of two or three legal and public relations staff members. It may later be expanded to fit developments in Congress and the courts on the political espionage case.

Four more years is the answer at the White House now.

It used to be "Re-elect the President" back in the days when the committee was a campaign organization with many as 27 employees.

\$4.7 Million in Treasury

As long as the Watergate inquiry and its offshoots continue, said Devan J. Shumway, spokesman for the committee, "we'll be here. It may be two months, it may be two years."

In either case, there should be no problem meeting the payroll, Mr. Shumway said.

committee's finance branch had \$4.7 million in unused campaign funds as of a month ago.

The committee's chief public function is rebuttal in light of Nixon campaign officials' claims in statements, interviews or news accounts of involvement in political activities against the Democrats.

That does not extend to the two former committee members who were among the seven men convicted of breaking into Democratic headquarters last June 17.

In handling what he calls the "response mechanism," Mr. Shumway said he contacted periodically with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who once was chairman of the committee, and with Maurice Stans, who heads the finance committee. He said he did not deal directly with the White House.

Another Republican re-election committee is in operation because the White House doesn't want to take the heat in dealing with accusations, likely to mount as public hearings begin in the Senate.

White House spokesmen handle matters involving officials and aides on the staff there, Mr. Shumway said, "what was the campaign."

Many Legal Matters

In addition, the committee is involved in three civil suits stemming from the Watergate case. Another suit is to force full disclosure of campaign finances.

"A lot of our time is taken with talking to lawyers," Mr. Shumway said.

If it were not for the Watergate case and the publicity it raised, Mr. Shumway said, the committee probably would be closed down about April 15.

But with television news hearings on the Watergate case likely to begin about April 15, the rebuttal operation is expected to be busy.

A sample came after the closure of secret Senate hearings in which a committee Watergate committee members.

It has been told that Mr. Shumway approved the Watergate unit in August.

Mr. Shumway said he had been told that the committee had given the heated rebuttal campaign statement "stand out and false."

Later, the White House joined the counter-attack. Nixon's press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, sharply criticized the Senate committee investigating the Watergate, saying it was "plagued by leaks of tidal-wave proportions."

Mr. Nixon had said on March 15 that he and Mr. Ziegler would be commenting on the investigation while it was in progress. Mr. Nixon also said that he did not intend to raise questions about the conduct of the committee.

as long as it avoided personalship, hearsay, and innuendo or association.

But after accounts of testimony leaked from the panel's closed-door interrogations, Mr. Ziegler called it a "disorganized house."

should be put in order to avoid a "disorganized house" and the process.

It was pointed off a staff and session, and agreed to set up preparations for public hearings.