

Nixon Men Probed Albert, Huntley

By Jack Anderson

There seems to be no end to the dirty tricks that the Nixon crowd played on their political foes.

We keep uncovering new incidents that the various Watergate investigators have never divulged. In recent columns, we have described political smear attempts against a dozen unsuspecting victims, ranging from the newsmen who exposed the Mylai slaughter to Sen. George McGovern's finance chairman Henry Kimelman.

When Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) visited Honolulu, for example, White House snoops tried in vain to catch him partying. When he was photographed in Rome with a pretty girl, presidential aides planted the picture in a national scandal sheet. When AFL-CIO boss George Meany went to the hospital with a chest hernia, a special investigator for the White House was assigned to get the medical details.

Now our investigation has turned up evidence that presidential probers also inquired into drinking habits of Speaker Carl Albert and the late commentator Chet Huntley, tried to prove Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) had signed a racial covenant, ran a check on the financing of Sen. McGovern's home and planted a "welfare spy" in the McGovern camp.

We have also established that the White House snooped into a Southern Democratic senator's

alleged ownership of a segregated apartment complex. Because we haven't positively pinned down the senator's identity, we will omit his name. But there is strong evidence that the White House conducted additional investigations of Sens. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) and Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.).

The White House tactic was to dig up dirt on these people and leak it to the press. A story was leaked, for example, on McGovern's real estate holdings. The White House also tried to verify the false story that Humphrey had signed a binding racial covenant on his home.

The snoop-and-smear operations were handled mainly by White House aides Charles Colson, John Dean, Jack Caulfield and Lyn Nofziger, with H. R. Haldeman pulling the strings from above. Nofziger became so proficient that leaks became known around the White House as "Nofziger Jobs."

While President Nixon himself never prescribed the tactics, he set the policy. He directed Haldeman in a series of memos and conversations to leak derogatory information against his adversaries and critics.

There are strong indications that the White House Keyhole Kops, for example, snooped into an incident at Washington's Zebra Room involving Speaker Albert. He left the Zebra Room after a number of drinks, got into an auto accident and tried to hush policemen by saying he

had gotten them their pay raises, witnesses said.

Haldeman later reported to the President, without going into detail, that there was derogatory information available on the Speaker. Albert has assured us he no longer drinks.

A similar undercover investigation was conducted into Chet Huntley's sobriety after he made some sharply critical remarks about President Nixon. An official investigation report, now in our hands, alleges that "Huntley had 'privately stated he was drunk at the time.'"

Nevertheless, the report goes on, the White House considered using the Environmental Protection Agency to obstruct a Huntley had "privately stated he was drunk at the time."

During the 1972 campaign, Nofziger planted a spy in McGovern's California headquarters to search for a special form that volunteers allegedly used to get welfare payments while they worked for the Democratic presidential candidate. For two weeks, Nofziger's stealthy "welfare spy" rifled desks, files and in-baskets for the mysterious form which, it turned out, never existed.

Nofziger also pressed for anti-trust action against the Los Angeles Times, whose reporters had written critical stories about the President. The Justice Department provided the White House with helpful information but never went ahead with the action.

Nofziger also sought tax infor-

mation about the National Education Association. Documents in our possession show he planned to slip the information to a friendly congressman who would criticize the tax-exempt NEA for "political activities."

But Nofziger was more scrupulous, according to our documents, than was Chuck Colson. When Nofziger was publishing the GOP newsletter, Monday, Colson tried to leak stories to him. Nofziger confided he killed the Colson stories because they were "of a questionable nature."

On another occasion, Nofziger warned Haldeman that their colleague Colson was going to ruin Haldeman. Haldeman, according to the documents, shot back a phrase that epitomizes Watergate:

"But he gets the job done."

Washington Whirl — Watergate convict Charles Colson has been dropped from the impeachment witness list. Sources familiar with his two days of secret testimony say he had no new information but merely offered his interpretations. The impeachment staff decided they didn't need the benefit of a Colson sermon . . . Adm. Thomas Moorer, the retiring Joint Chiefs chairman, is preparing to go out in style today. His retirement party will wind up, according to plans, with the overhead appearance of a dozen fighter jets headed by a B-52 and the aerial acrobatics of the Blue Angels.

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