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Ulasewicz Tells of Investigating Ex-Rep. Poff and Speaker Albert

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WASHINGTON, July 31 — A former New York City policeman who has acknowledged conducting about 30 private investigations a year for the White House gave some details Tuesday night on a few of them.

Anthony T. Ulasewicz, a retired detective who worked on White House assignments from 1969 to 1972, insisted in a telephone interview from his home in Hadley, N. Y., that the importance of his work had often been "exaggerated."

For example, Mr. Ulasewicz confirmed that he had carried out an investigation of former Representative Richard H. Poff, Republican of Virginia, who was under consideration for appointment to a Supreme Court vacancy in 1971.

But Mr. Ulasewicz said he had been asked to conduct only a survey in Mr. Poff's home town of Radford, Va., in an effort to learn "how the news would be received in his community if he was appointed to the Supreme Court."

The former detective said he did not know why the White House would be interested in such information. He asserted that he never knew either the purpose of or the official responsible for the investigations he carried out.

Mr. Ulasewicz, whose testimony before the Senate Watergate committee has amused audiences on two occasions, repeated tonight that he received his assignments from an intermediary rather than from ranking officials.

He also confirmed that he had carried out an investigation of Tom and Dick Smothers, the former television comedians who had been critical of the Nixon Administration. He said the inquiry was "something very light."

Mr. Ulasewicz added that he tried to learn the nature and purpose of a corporation that the Smothers were alleged to have organized. He said he could remember no details, and that he thought the assignment involved a telephone call or two.

The former policeman refused to give details of an inquiry he carried out on House Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, but he said it involved checking rumors of an event in Georgetown. He did this, he said, by looking at public records and by interviewing people.

Mr. Ulasewicz, who investigated the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, a young secretary who drowned when a car driven by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, plunged off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island in July, 1969, said he had never interviewed the Senator's employees.

Mr. Ulasewicz again denied that any of his investigations had involved illegal activities. Specifically, he said he had never wiretapped telephones, an assertion he made in his earlier testimony before the Senate Watergate committee.