

Ex-Nixon Aide Reports Coast Anti-Wallace Move

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— Secret funds from President Nixon's re-election campaign financed an unsuccessful effort to remove Gov. George C. Wallace's American Independent party from the California ballot last year, according to a former Nixon campaign official.

Some of the money apparently wound up in the hands of the American azi party, which says it was recruited to help in the drive.

The California effort against the Wallace party seems to have been part of a broader campaign by Nixon forces to undercut the Alabama Governor.

Last week, John W. Dean 3d, formerly President Nixon's counsel, reportedly told several investigators that \$200,000 to \$400,000 in Nixon campaign funds was used to try to defeat Governor Wallace in the democratic governorship primary in 1970.

Lyn Nofziger, who ran President Nixon's re-election campaign in California, said today that he had been working at the Committee for the Re-election of the President in Washington in the fall of 1971 when he was approached by Jeb Stuart Magruder, the committee's deputy director.

According to Mr. Nofziger, Mr. Magruder said that a man named Robert J. Walters, a former assistant to Governor Wallace, had proposed a plan to reduce the number of voters registered in the American Independent party to the point where the party would be removed from the ballot. Mr. Walters reportedly told Mr. Magruder he could do the job for \$10,000.

“Magruder asked me if I knew someone who could monitor what Walters was do-



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Lyn Nofziger, who ran the President's re-election campaign in California, confirmed covert anti-Wallace efforts there.

ing and make the payments as needed,” recalled Mr. Nofziger, who now works for Lieut. Gov. Ed Reinecke, of California. “I found the man to do it. When I informed Mr. Magruder I had the man, he said to go over and see Hugh Sloan [treasurer of the Nixon campaign] and get the money.”

The Senate committee investigating the Watergate scandal has heard Mr. Sloan testify that he gave the \$10,000 to Mr. Nofziger and later heard rumors that “this was used for some purpose with regard to the Wallace primary.”

Mr. Nofziger said he had picked up an envelope from Mr. Sloan, which he assumes contained the money in cash,

and had it delivered to its contact in California. Mr. Nofziger declined to identify that contact, but other sources said it had been Jack Lindsay, a food company executive who formerly worked for Gov. Ronald Reagan. Mr. Lindsay could not be reached for comment.

Report on Mitchell

“My friend monitored the program and sent in two or three reports, but I didn't even look at them. I sent them over to Magruder,” Mr. Nofziger said.

According to several knowledgeable sources, the project was originally planned at a meeting in Los Angeles in October, 1971, attended by Mr. Magruder, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, Mr. Walters, and Glenn Parker, an aide to Mr. Walters. An article in The Washington Post this morning quoted Mr. Parker as saying:

“Mitchell started the conversation. He said he had heard there was a way to remove the [American Independent party] from the ballot. He said they had run a poll between Muskie, Nixon and Wallace that showed that without Wallace four-fifths of the Wallace vote would go to Nixon. He emphasized they thought they were in trouble, and that Nixon especially wanted to win California.”

Mr. Walters, who now runs an advertising business in Maywood, Calif., got in touch with both Mr. Nofziger and Mr. Parker. He said that his campaign against the American Independent party had been aimed at protecting local conservative candidates, not Mr. Nixon, since Governor Wallace never intended to run as a third-party candidate anyway in 1972.

Mr. Walters, who spoke in an interview, also denied receiving any financial help from

the Nixon campaign, and said he had raised all the money he spent—about \$8,400—from private sources. Mr. Walters says that he knows Mr. Magruder, who ran Mr. Nixon's Los Angeles campaign in 1968, but he denied that the meeting reportedly described by Mr. Parker ever took place.

California law says that if a party's registration falls below 1-15th of 1 per cent of the total number of voters, it is removed from the ballot. Mr. Walters said he had hoped to convince about half of the American Independent party's 32,000 members to change registration, but fell far short of his goal.

Joseph Tommasi, a spokesman for the Nazi party headquartered in suburban El Monte, has maintained since last fall that the party received \$1,200 from Mr. Walters and Mr. Parker for helping in the drive. Its role was to canvass American Independent party members and urge them to register, he said.

Investigation by State

Mr. Walters said that he did not remember recruiting the Nazis, but he conceded that Mr. Parker might have.

An aide to Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. said today that an investigation was under way to determine if any state election laws had been violated, but Mr. Nofziger insisted that the drive was “perfectly legitimate.”

“As far as I'm concerned it was legal, moral and good politics, and I'd do it again, but it was not very practical,” Mr. Nofziger said.

Mr. Walters, 31 years old, pleaded “no contest” last fall to fraud charges in connection with a campaign to place an initiative regarding farm workers on the state ballot and was fined \$500.

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