

## 'Dirty Tricks' Charge

# Campaign Aide Accused

### Washington

President Ford's new political director, Stuart Spencer of Los Angeles, is the original "dirty trickster" of politics who taught others to wiretap, spy and disrupt opponents' campaigns, it was reported yesterday.

The story by the Washington bureau of Scripps-Howard newspapers quoted Raymond V. Humphreys, a Washington-based political consultant, and three unidentified sources as saying they were taught "political thuggery" in a series of congressional campaign management seminars conducted by California Republicans Spencer and his associate, William Roberts, in the late 1960s.

Spencer vigorously denied the charges. He said that in his talks he had emphasized winning but never had advocated underhanded or illegal practices.

The Scripps-Howard sources

said Spencer had as his motto: "It is not how you play the game that counts, it is whether you win or lose," and taught these tactics:

- How to install electronic surveillance equipment.
- How to pay janitors for the contents of trashbaskets from opponents' headquarters.
- How to disrupt campaigns by planting phony information which, for instance, might result in the candidate showing up for an indoor rally to find the doors locked and the place deserted because those staging it had been told falsely the date had been changed.

Humphreys said he was "quite shocked" by the seminars. He added, "I don't regard political thuggery as a good way to make a contribution."

The other sources agreed with his assessment. They called the seminars the forerunner of the

brand of dirty campaigning on Richard Nixon's behalf that brought about the Watergate scandal.

In denying the charges, Spencer said he did teach his followers how to use scramblers to ensure that a telephone line cannot be tapped, but said this is a protective rather than an offensive device.

"I've never done it," he said. "Just look at the campaigns I've run. The record shows that we've never been involved in any of that. It makes me sick to think about it."

Spencer-Roberts campaigns include the victory of Ronald Reagan over Edmund G. Brown Sr. for the California governorship in 1968, and Nelson Rockefeller's unsuccessful 1964 California Republican primary against Barry Goldwater.

United Press