

□ filed Surveillance

Senate panel holds vast 'subversives' file amassed by ex-chief of Army intelligence

by Richard Halloran

[Story, datelined Washington, deals with "a secret collection of reports on 125,000 allegedly subversive persons and organizations ... known to insiders here as the Van Deman files ... assembled - with official knowledge and help - by ... Maj. Gen. Ralph H. Van Deman, between 1929, the year of his retirement, and 1952, the year of his death."]

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California Democrats allege that information from the Van Deman files was used by supporters of Richard M. Nixon in his campaigns against Jerry Voorhis for the House in 1946 and against Helen Gahagan Douglas for the Senate in 1950.

Judge Hugo Fisher of the San Diego Superior Court, who has been active in Democratic party politics since 1946, said that material from the files appeared in the so-called "pink sheets" distributed at rallies for Mr. Nixon and other Republicans in the 1950 campaign.

Mr. Nixon repudiated some of the more violent statements in those sheets and Judge Fisher said that "it is possible, of course, that Mr. Nixon himself was unaware of the sources of this scurrilous material used by his supporters."

Asked about this, Murray Chotiner, the Washington lawyer who managed Mr. Nixon's 1950 campaign, said that the information used in that campaign was developed by "our own research people."

White House officials said they did not regard the issue of the files and past election campaigns as "pertinent."

There were also reports that information from the Van Deman files went to the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy for his use against those he called Communists and Communist sympathizers.