

Nixon Aides Got Wiretap Memos

By Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein *10/7/72*

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President Nixon's assistant for congressional relations and two officials of the President's re-election committee were among the recipients of memos describing wiretapped conversations of Democratic Party officials, according to Alfred C. Baldwin III.

Baldwin, the ex-FBI agent who says he transcribed the wiretapped conversations of Democratic officials in the Watergate, is known to have told the FBI that memos summarizing some of the conversations were addressed to the following persons, among others:

- William E. Timmons, assistant to the President for congressional relations and the principal White House liaison to the re-election committee for matters concerning the Republican National Convention.

- Robert C. Odle Jr., a former White House aide who is director of administration for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

- J. Glenn Sedam Jr., general counsel of the President's re-election committee.

See AIDES, A33, Col. 5



ALFRED C. BALDWIN III
... acted as lookout

AIDES, From A1

Timmons has declined to discuss whether he received any memos of wiretapped conversations since The Washington Post first asked him about the matter more than two weeks ago.

A White House spokesman said Timmons denies that he ever received any such memos as asserted by Baldwin, who is expected to be a key government witness in the Watergate bugging trial.

A spokesman for the President's re-election committee also denied that either Odle or Sedam received any memos based on wiretapped conversations. Sedam, who personally denied Baldwin's assertion, said that he had been questioned about the matter by FBI agents investigating the Watergate bugging.

In a tape-recorded interview with the Los Angeles Times, Baldwin describes how he monitored wiretapped conversations and typed them into memorandum form under orders from James W. McCord, then security coordinator of President Nixon's re-election committee. However, Baldwin never says in the interview whom the memos were addressed to.

Baldwin, according to other sources, told the FBI he was able to learn the names of persons sent such memos on only three occasions, although—by his account—many more memoranda based on wiretapped conversations were written and then stuffed into a brief-

case by McCord for eventual distribution.

In his interview with The Los Angeles Times, Baldwin says he once placed logs of monitored conversations in an envelope, wrote the name of an official of the President's re-election committee on the outside and then delivered it to a guard at committee headquarters.

According to sources close to the Watergate investigation, Baldwin, when interviewed by the FBI, picked out Sedam's name from a list of committee employees and said he was the official to whom the logs were addressed.

In identifying Timmons and Odle as persons to whom memos were sent, Baldwin named the two from memory, without the assistance of a list or other aid, the sources said.

The names of Sedam and Odle have figured in other aspects of the Watergate investigation.

Until March 27, Sedam shared an office at the re-election committee with G. Gordon Liddy, one of seven men indicted on charges of conspiring to bug the Democrats' Watergate headquarters. Bernard L. Barker, of Miami, one of the other men indicted in the case, made at least seven long-distance telephone calls to an unlisted number shared by Sedam and Liddy until March 27.

Three of the phone calls—on April 10, April 27 and May 1—were made after Sedam succeeded Liddy as general

counsel of the Nixon committee and Liddy moved to another office as finance counsel. Sedam has denied that he received the post-March 27 phone calls, commenting, "He (Barker) sure wasn't calling me."

Odle, according to the Nixon re-election committee, is the man who hired McCord as security coordinator, although other persons participating in the decision, according to sources close to the Watergate investigation.

Odle, a former assistant to White House communications director Herb Klein, reportedly participated in the destruction of Nixon committee

records in the days following the arrest of five men inside the Democrats' Watergate headquarters on June 17.

According to law enforcement and Nixon committee sources, the destruction of records was part of a "house-cleaning" directed by former Assistant Attorney General C. Mardian, now political coordinator of the President's campaign, and Frederick C. La Rue, a former White House aide who is staff assistant to the director of the Nixon campaign.

La Rue is identified in Baldwin's Los Angeles Times interview as the man who approved his employment.