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Nixon Aides Get Memos On Bugging, Paper Claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Memos describing wiretapped conversations of Democratic party officials were sent directly to President Nixon's assistant for congressional relations and two officials of Nixon's campaign committee, The Washington Post reported today.

The newspaper said it learned that the memos were addressed to William E. Timmons, the presidential adviser; Robert C. Odle Jr., a former White House aide who now is director of administration of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and J. Glenn Sedom, general counsel of the campaign organization.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler denied that Timmons had received the memos. Timmons has refused to comment. Ziegler turned aside other questions on the case, saying the President had addressed himself to the subject in his news conference Thursday and that he had "nothing further to say."

A spokesman for The Committee for the Re-election of the President also denied that either Odle or Sedom had received the memos described by the Post.

IN A related development Friday, Democratic campaign chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien called a court order against public discussion of the Watergate case a "gag rule."

In a news conference, O'Brien declared he feels neither he nor the Democratic presidential and vice presidential candidates are bound by the order. He said the court was being asked to say so.

O'Brien repeated his charge that the bugging was financed by and information from it went to "high places in the Committee for the Re-election of the President. And I still

say there is a line to the White House."

The Post story related a fresh link to the White House in the tangled developments stemming from the June 17 break-in and alleged bugging at Democratic national headquarters in Washington's Watergate building.

At a news conference Thursday, Nixon was questioned about the Watergate episode and replied:

"The FBI has assigned 133 agents to this investigation. It followed out 1,800 leads. It conducted 1,500 interviews...

"I WANTED every lead carried out to the end because I wanted to be sure that no member of the White House staff and no man or woman in a position of major responsibility in the Committee for Re-election had anything to do with this kind of reprehensible activity."

There were these other Watergate developments:

—The FBI has established that a \$100,000 contribution to Nixon's campaign actually came from the corporate bank account of Gulf Resources and Chemical Corp. in Houston after traveling a circuitous route through Mexico, the Post reported in a separate story.

—Chairman Wright Patman, D-Tex., of the House Banking Committee vowed to press for hearings on the money-handling aspects of the case, although the committee voted down his proposal earlier this week.

AS THE Post related it, the memos sent to Timmons, Odle and Sedom were written by Alfred C. Baldwin III, the ex-FBI agent who went to work for the Nixon committee's security chief, James W. McCord.

McCord, one of seven men indicted in the case, since has been fired from the committee.

Baldwin reportedly was stationed beside electronic monitors in a motel room across the street from the Watergate and was told to listen to conversations piped from eavesdropping devices planted in Democratic party telephones.

In a copyrighted interview with the Los Angeles Times, Baldwin told of writing memos about the conversations at McCord's orders.

THE POST quoted sources close to the investigation as saying that Baldwin told the FBI that on at least three occasions the memos were sent to Timmons, Odle and Sedom.

In the separate account tracing the \$100,000 contribution, the Post said the attorney for the Texas firm, Richard Haynes, confirmed the transactions and defended them as proper and legal.

The newspaper quoted FBI sources as saying that the money came from the corporate bank account of Gulf Resources. Campaign contributions by corporations are illegal.

But the FBI sources said the contribution was so well disguised that it would be virtually impossible to prove wrongdoing, according to the newspaper.

THE POST traced this sequence:

—The president of Gulf Resources, Robert H. Allen, is the chief Nixon fund-raiser in Texas. On April 3, Allen transferred \$100,000 from the company bank account to the firm's Mexico subsidiary.

—The subsidiary then turned over the \$100,000 to a Mexico City lawyer, Manuel Ogarrío Daguerre, as payment for legal services. FBI sources said they suspect the

fee was inflated, and Haynes did not deny that.

—Ogarrío or his representative then converted \$89,000 of the money into four cashier's checks and sent the checks along with \$11,000 in cash back to Texas.

—The \$100,000 in checks and cash then was put with another \$600,000 in contributions, crammed into a suitcase and flown to the Nixon campaign's Washington headquarters April 5, two days before the deadline requiring public disclosure of the donors.

—Contributions from foreign nationals are illegal. The Mexico City lawyer made loans—at least on paper—to several Texans whose names were to be matched with the \$100,000 in contributions. Their names have not been divulged.

THE GULF Resources lawyer, Haynes, said that as a result of the transactions, the \$100,000 was "not a corporate contribution or one from a Mexican national."

Subsequently, the Post reported, the \$89,000 in cashier's checks turned up in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker, another of the seven men indicted for breaking into Democratic headquarters.

The newspaper also reported that the Environmental Protection Agency was exerting pressure on the Texas company's major subsidiary, an Idaho mining operation, to comply with federal air and water pollution standards.