

Huge GOP Political
Spy Fund Reported

SFE Examiner
Files
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Of FBI
Quoted

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Washington Post today quoted sources including FBI and Justice Department files as saying that President Nixon's campaign committee had planned political espionage against the Democrats since mid-1971.

"The Nixon forces, using funds from GOP campaign contributions, attempted to discredit individual Democratic presidential candidates and disrupt their campaigns," according to federal investigators.

The Post said the Watergate investigation "definitely established that virtually all the acts against the Democrats were financed by a secret, fluctuating \$350,000-\$700,000 campaign fund that was controlled by former Attorney General John Mitchell . . . (and) kept in a safe in the office of the President's chief fund raiser, former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans.

Called "Fiction"

A spokesman for Nixon's campaign committee said, "the Post story is not only fiction but a collection of absurdities."

The Post said the sabotage campaign included these activities:

- Following members of Democratic candidates' families.
- Forging letters and distributing them under the candidate's letterhead.
- Leaking false and "manufactured" news to the press.
- Foul up candidates' campaign schedules.

- Seizing confidential campaign files.

- Investigating the lives of dozens of Democratic campaign workers.

The FBI turned up all this information, according to the Post, in the course of its investigation into the break-in and bugging at Democratic national headquarters last June 17. A federal grand jury has indicted seven men, including two former White House aides, but their trial and action on a multimillion-dollar damage suit filed by the Democrats have been delayed until after the Nov. 7 elections. "Intelligence work is normal during a campaign and is said to be carried out by both political parties," the Post said, "but the investi-

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gators said what they uncovered goes far beyond what is normal, and is unprecedented in its extent and intensity."

Sources Listed

The Post listed among its sources FBI and Justice Department files; Assistant Attorney General Alex B. Shipley of Tennessee; and three lawyers — Roger Lee Nixt of Dennison, Iowa, Kenneth Griffiths of Atlanta and Peter Dixon of San Francisco.

The newspaper said the espionage campaign was uncovered when five men were arrested June 17 inside Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate building.

The five, a White House aide and an attorney for Nixon's campaign committee — both of whom resigned shortly after the arrests — were indicted in August on charges of burglary and illegal electronic surveillance.

"Offensive Security"

"Both at the White House

and within the President's re-election committee," the Post said, "the intelligence-sabotage operation was commonly called the 'offensive security' program of the Nixon forces, according to investigators.

"Perhaps the most significant finding of the whole Watergate investigation, the investigators say, was that numerous acts or political sabotage and spying were all traced to this 'offensive security,' which was conceived and directed in the White House and by President Nixon's re-election committee."

A key figure in the political espionage, according to the Post report, was Donald H. Segretti, a former Treasury Department lawyer who lives in Marina Del Rey, Calif.

The Post said a reporter interviewed Segretti last week and he denied knowledge of any political espionage. But the Post quoted Shipley, Nixt, Griffiths and Dixon as saying Segretti approached them.

Shipley said Segretti talked in general terms when he first raised the subject while driving to Dulles Airport in June, 1971.

"It was very strange," Shipley told the Post, "three quarters of the way to the airport I said, 'Well, who will we be working for?' He

said, 'Nixon' and I was really taken aback; because all the actions he had talked about would have taken place in the Democratic primaries. He said the main purpose was that the Democrats have an ability to get back together after a knock-down, drag-out campaign. What we want to do is wreak enough havoc so they can't."

Shipley said Segretti suggested such disruptions as:

"When a rally is scheduled at 7 p.m. at a local coliseum by a particular candi-

date, you call up and represent to the manager that you're the field manager for this candidate and you have some information that some rowdies . . . are going to cause trouble. So you ask him to move the rally up to 9 o'clock—thereby insuring that the place would be padlocked when the candidate showed up at 7."

The Post said FBI reports show that no less than 50 "undercover Nixon operatives traveled throughout the country trying to disrupt and spy on Democratic campaigns" under the "offensive security" program.