

SF Chronicle 11 Oct 72

# Shriver Talks of 'Unsavory Mess'

Harrisburg, Pa.

A pattern of corruption — “an unsavory, smelly mess” — has developed in Washington and it has made Americans skeptical and cynical about politics. Sargent Shriver said yesterday.

“Anything seems to go with this administration,” the Democratic vice presidential candidate said when asked about newly published reports in the Watergate bugging case.

“Martha Mitchell may turn out to be the person who is actually right about this when she said to John, ‘Let’s get out of here — I don’t like you having to associate with thugs all the time.’”

Shriver made the comments in Pittsburgh during a three-day campaign swing

through Pennsylvania.

Shriver said he had no personal knowledge of events detailed by The Washington Post saying there was a massive Republican campaign of political spying and sabotage directed by White House officials and the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

However, he told newsmen: “I don’t believe that the President is sitting innocently in the Oval Office all pure and undefiled without knowing anything that is going on in the Republican National Committee.”

“It’s his committee . . . if he doesn’t know what’s going on in his committee How can he know what’s going on in the country. How can he know what’s going on in the world?”

*Associated Press*