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McGovern Show Target Of Sabotage--Mankiewicz

WASHINGTON — A "political saboteur" attempted to cancel Sen. George McGovern's televised speech on Vietnam yesterday, according to Frank Mankiewicz, the Democratic candidate's political director.

Mankiewicz said a man calling himself the contractor for the show phoned the CBS network yesterday afternoon and ordered the paid half-hour canceled.

"The network called me right away," Mankiewicz said, "and asked me why I wanted to stop the show. I told them the caller must have been misrepresenting himself and that the speech

would go on as scheduled."

Later, Mankiewicz said, he called the agent the McGovern Committee used to buy the TV time and "he said he made no such phone call to the network."

Mankiewicz said this was the latest in a series of apparent attempts at "political sabotage" that have plagued the McGovern campaign since it began.

"That caller was no prankster," Mankiewicz said, "because he knew the name of our agent. It would have taken some research and planning to know that name and to know whom to call at the network."