

Phony Calls Said GOP 'Sabotage'

ST. LOUIS — (UPI) — Democrats are investigating reports of phony telephone calls made to AFL-CIO President George Meany, CBS newsmen Walter Cronkite and others by persons representing themselves to be involved in the McGovern campaign, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch said yesterday.

The story said the Democrats suspect an undercover "political sabotage" unit reported earlier this week to have been set up by the White House and the Committee to Re-elect the President, something the committee has categorically denied.

The Democrats also believe the unit may have been responsible for leaking information about the medical history of Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton which led to Eagleton's being dropped as the Democratic vice presidential candidate.

Aimed At McGovern

The Post-Dispatch story quoted unidentified democrats as saying the telephone calls were intended "to do direct political damage to McGovern's campaign, to put him in an embarrassing spot or to obtain inside information about the Democratic presidential drive."

The story said one of the

calls was made June 15 by a caller identifying himself as Gary Hart, McGovern's campaign director. The caller reportedly demanded that Meany meet with McGovern in New York City.

The story says that when Meany's secretary replied that Meany was not scheduled to be in New York then, the caller told her:

"I don't think you understand. The senator wants him to come to New York . . . I don't think you realize it would be to his (Meany's) advantage to come to New York."

Denies Making Call

Hart told the Post-Dispatch that he did not call Meany's office and only learned of the call when he was told a call had been made to Meany in his name.

He said he directed someone in the campaign to clear up the situation, but Al Zack, AFL-CIO press secretary, said no explanation was received and he did not know the call was fake until the Post-Dispatch called him about it.

An apparently phony FBI investigation of Hart occurred during the past few weeks, the story said, with callers asking Hart's neighbors a number of questions about his activities and background.