

Kennedy Calls an Inquiry On Watergate and Spying

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By JOHN W. FINNEY OCT 14 1972
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—Senator Edward M. Kennedy, as chairman of a Senate judiciary subcommittee, has ordered a "preliminary inquiry" into the Watergate bugging incident and charges of political espionage and sabotage in the Presidential campaign.

At this point, the Massachusetts Democrat is not committing himself to public subcommittee hearings before the Nov. 7 elections. But the Kennedy move raises the possibility that his subcommittee could provide a focal point for Democrats as they try to develop their charges of political spying and sabotage against the Republican Administration.

Senator Kennedy explained his intentions to conduct a "preliminary inquiry" in a letter sent yesterday to the seven other members of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practices, which he heads. While Senator Kennedy's staff refused to make the letter public, its contents were disclosed by other Senate sources.

The Kennedy letter made clear that he intended to investigate not only the bugging of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate apartments but also

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the general question of whether there has been "political espionage and sabotage" conducted during the current Presidential campaign.

Both Senator George McGovern, the Democratic Presidential candidate, and Senator Edmund S. Muskie, who unsuccessfully sought the Presidential nomination, have suggested that during the campaign, including the primaries, they were the victims of acts of political sabotage.

Neither Mr. McGovern nor Mr. Muskie has specifically charged that the sabotage was directed by Republican officials supporting the re-election of President Nixon, although that has been the clear implication of their suggestions.

The Kennedy letter was sent on the same day that Representative Wright Patman, as chairman of the House Banking Committee, was blocked in his attempt to have his committee investigate the Watergate inci-

dent and charges of irregularities in campaign contributions.

Faced with the opposition of Republicans and some Democratic committee members, Mr. Patman was unable to obtain a quorum of the committee to hold his hearing. The committee had refused him authority to issue subpoenas.

Whether there was a connection between the collapse of the Patman investigation

and the Kennedy letter announcing the preliminary inquiry was not immediately clear.

It is known, however, that various Democratic leaders have been looking to the Patman committee, as well as the suit brought by the Democratic National Committee in Federal courts, to expose the details of the Watergate bugging incident.

With the investigation thwarted in the Banking Committee, the inclination of these Democratic leaders would be to turn to Senator Kennedy and his subcommittee.

Mr. Kennedy has been under some pressure from Democratic officials to conduct an investigation of the Watergate incident. He had resisted these pressures on the ground, according to Democratic sources in the Senate, that his entry into the case would only serve to "politicize" the investigation.

In his letter, Mr. Kennedy made clear his intention to issue subpoenas to force reluctant witnesses to appear. One of the principal purposes of the Kennedy letter was to obtain the consent of the rest of the subcommittee members to his issuance of subpoenas.

Judge Calls Fund Raisers

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Oct. 13—A judge here has ordered three men associated with President Nixon's campaign fund-raising to ap-

pear in a trial of Bernard L. Barker, the suspected leader of the Watergate break-in.

The three witnesses, whose extradition orders were signed yesterday, are Maurice H. Stans, former Commerce Secretary and now President Nixon's chief campaign fund-raiser; Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former Nixon finance committee treasurer; and Kenneth H. Dahlberg, chairman of the Minnesota reelection committee.

Today, Judge Paul Baker denied a series of defense motions in Dade County Criminal Court and cleared the way for the trial to start as scheduled on Oct. 30. However, Judge Baker said he might postpone the trial if the three men did not appear in his court by next Thursday.

The Dade State Attorney, Richard E. Gerstein, has described the three men as material witnesses who are "essential" to the case.

Mr. Barker is accused of "false and fraudulent" use of the Florida notary public seal on a campaign check.

Assistant State Attorney David Goodhard, who with Mr. Gerstein is prosecuting the case, said that the authorities in Minnesota, Virginia and Washington, D. C., the homes of the three witnesses, had been cooperating "fully" and that he expected the witnesses to have no objections to coming to Miami.

Mr. Barker, a 55-year-old

Miami real estate broker and notary public, was charged Sept. 15 with having "falsely and fraudulently" acknowledged the signature of Mr. Dahlberg on a \$25,000 check, which he deposited into the account of his company April 20.

Under the Florida law, the charge is a felony punishable by a prison term up to five years.

The \$25,000 was part of a total of \$114,000 deposited by Mr. Barker on the same date at the Republic National Bank of Miami. The money had gone through the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

At the hearing this afternoon, a defense lawyer, Henry Rothblatt of New York, sought either to have the case dismissed or the trial indefinitely postponed on the ground that prejudicial publicity would make the proceedings unfair to his client.

While overruling the motions, Judge Baker allowed Mr. Rothblatt to introduce into the records reports published in the local newspapers and broadcast by local radio and television of the Watergate break-in.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (UPI)—The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, and a Pulitzer prize-winning reporter, Clark R. Mollenhoff, engaged in a tense confrontation today over the accuracy of a quote that Mr. Mollenhoff attributed to Mr. Ziegler last week.