

O'Brien Charges 'Political Espionage'

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By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

Lawrence F. O'Brien, the national campaign chairman for the McGovern-Shriver ticket, accused the Nixon Administration yesterday of sanctioning tactics of "political espionage" that bordered on those of "a fascist state."

At a news conference at Senator George McGovern's headquarters, 19 East 53d Street, Mr. O'Brien laced into the Nixon Administration, calling it "corrupt" — a charge that Senator McGovern, the Democratic Presidential nominee, has been leveling repeatedly in recent weeks.

Mr. O'Brien, who was surrounded by local Democratic leaders representing numerous party factions, also said that he had come to the city after a two-day swing throughout the state because "of a deep concern nationally in this campaign regarding the outcome of this election in the state of New York."

State Hold Election Key

Against a background of polls showing the McGovern-Shriver ticket to be far behind the Nixon - Agnew slate, Mr. O'Brien said: "In my judgment this state is key to our election victory. Victory in the state of New York is absolutely vital."

"We recognize that there are Democrats in the country voting for Nixon and it is vital for us to reach those Democrats, to have them come home," Mr. O'Brien said, "to have them realize that the nation has paid an appalling price for four years of Nixon."

Referring to the allegations surrounding the Watergate bugging and the charges of favoritism enmeshed in the sale of American wheat to the Soviet Union, Mr. O'Brien said the Nixon Administration showed "a trail of corruption ... that extends back over four years."

The Administration, he said, approved of "political espionage" and was engaged in tac-

tics "bordering on a "Fascist state."

The basic issues in the campaign, Mr. O'Brien said, are still the Vietnam war and the state of the American economy.

Asked about Mr. McGovern's emphasis on "corruption" in the Republican Administration, he replied that the American people "recognize something is occurring in this area . . . but very few Americans seem to be concerned about it."

That, he said, related "to the cynicism across the land to the system—I think many Americans feel this is business as usual."

The Democrats have only a few weeks left to dispel this cynicism, he said, because "we're in a situation you could not believe in this democracy."

Participants at the new conference — ranging from Dan Collins, chairman of the New Democratic Coalition(to Patrick Cunningham, the regular Bronx County leader — were chosen to show unity in the party's ranks, a theme sounded

several times by Mr. O'Brien and others.

Joseph F. Crangle, the state Democratic chairman, said that one of the difficulties the Democrats faced was ferreting out leading Republicans at public forums.

"Governor Rockefeller is going to be known as the Howard Hughes of Albany," he said.

Mr. Rockefeller is Mr. Nixon's re-election co-chairman in the state, and Mr. Crangle said that thus far he had confined his public appearances to such well prepared and organized events as parades.