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**3 Aides of Nixon Denounce
Disruption-Tactic Charges**

Articles Called 'Hearsay'

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16—

President Nixon's re-election forces reacted on three fronts today to charges that important Nixon aides had created and sustained a widespread effort to disrupt the Democratic campaign.

At his regular morning briefing, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler—appearing more tense and emotional than usual—described the charges as "hearsay, innuendo and guilt by association."

At the same time, however, neither Mr. Ziegler nor Clark MacGregor, chairman of the re-election effort, who read a similar statement for television cameras this afternoon, would explicitly deny or discuss in any way the specific content of the allegations.

Still a third response came from Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, who heads the Republican National Committee. He described allegations of "political disruption" as "dated and

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2.

alleged, rather than recent and proven," and said they represented the "death rattle" of Senator George McGovern's

"desperate" effort to improve his standing in the campaign.

Although he characterized the charges as malicious, Mr. Ziegler said he could neither discuss nor deny them because to do so would "dignify" them. For his part, Mr. MacGregor read his statement and then left the room without answering questions.

Mr. MacGregor's statement was essentially an assault on The Washington Post. The Post has published many articles on the alleged bugging of Democratic headquarters here, and this weekend—raised a whole new set of charges in articles that linked at least two of Mr. Nixon's White House assistants to an espionage campaign against the Democrats.

Allegation in Article

The two aides are Dwight L. Chapin and Gordon Strachan who, it was said, recruited a former classmate at the University of Southern California, Donald H. Segretti, to conduct a clandestine campaign of sabotage and espionage against the Democrats.

Mr. Ziegler denied that Mr. Segretti had ever worked for the White House, and Mr. MacGregor said he had not worked for either the political or financial arms of the Committee for the re-election of the President.

But Mr. Ziegler would not comment directly on allegations that Mr. Chapin had hired Mr. Segretti to carry out undercover political work, and Mr. MacGregor's departure from the

briefing room at committee headquarters made it impossible to question him on the same point.

Mr. Ziegler, long a personal friend of Mr. Chapin's, knew that he would be questioned on the Chapin matter this morning, the articles having appeared over the weekend.

The White House aide said that Mr. Nixon himself was personally concerned over the articles, and that his "concern goes to the fact that the stories that are being run are based on hearsay, innuendo, guilt by association," adding, "He is concerned about the fact that this type of thing is taking place."

"It goes without saying," Mr. Ziegler went on, "that this Administration does not condone

sabotage or espionage or the surveillance of individuals or preparing dossiers on them, but it [the Administration] does not condone innuendo or source stories that make broad sweeping charges about the character of individuals."

By "source" stories, Mr. Ziegler was referring to, as well as complaining about, articles based on sources whose identities are not disclosed.

Mr. Chapin, in a comment issued apparently either late Friday night or Saturday, said that the Post article was "based on hearsay" but declined to discuss specifically the allegation that he had served as White House contact for Mr. Segretti during the latter's alleged covert activities. When Mr. Ziegler was pressed to deny the allegation today, he replied:

"I am not going to comment on stories based on hearsay, or where innuendo or character

assassination is involved. I am not going to dignify that with a comment."

Both Mr. Ziegler and Mr. MacGregor criticized The Washington Post, although the latter's language was far more harsh.

"You can draw your own conclusions," Mr. Ziegler said

when asked whether he thought The Post had been printing the articles for political reasons.

Mr. MacGregor directly accused The Post of complicity in the Democratic campaign to elect Senator George McGovern as President.

The former Minnesota Congressman charged that The Post had used "unsubstantiated charges, anonymous sources, and huge scare headlines" to "maliciously" construct a direct connection between the White House and the Watergate affair. At the same time, he said, the paper had devoted none of its resources to "proven" efforts by Mr. McGovern's forces to disrupt the President's campaign.

Mr. MacGregor asked why The Post had not investigated or had relegated to the back pages reports of the Molotov cocktail that he said had been discovered in Nixon headquarters in Newhall, Calif.; "Fire damage" to Nixon headquarters in Hollywood, Calif., and Phoenix, Ariz.; and window-breaking and "other trashing" at Nixon storefronts in New York, Massachusetts and Los Angeles.

In a brief reply, Benjamin C. Bradlee, managing editor of The Post, said that "time will judge" the truth of Mr. MacGregor's allegations, adding:

"For now it is enough to say that not a single fact contained in the investigative reporting by this newspaper about these activities has been successfully challenged."

Mr. MacGregor's charges and Mr. Ziegler's somewhat more bland suggestions of bias at The Post represented the first attack on the press by important Nixon operatives in the current campaign, as well as an apparent suspension of rules imposed at the White House in late summer barring any criticism of the press.

However, the attacks on The Post, as well as Mr. Ziegler's reluctance to discuss the charges in detail, were not inconsistent with the apparent general strategy devised at the White House for dealing with charges of "corruption" in the last weeks of the campaign.

Judging from a series of interviews with key Nixon aides, the essence of this strategy has been to avoid direct debate over the content of the charges—hence Mr. Ziegler's refusal today to "dignify" them—while, at the same time, keeping the general public off balance about the reliability of the newspapers that have printed the charges.

Bugging Suspect Inspected Mitchell Apartment

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By E. W. KENWORTHY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16—

James W. McCord, one of seven men indicted on charges of burglarizing and bugging the Democratic National Committee \$207.25 last Jan. 6 by the Committee for the Re-election of the President for conducting a "technical inspection" of the Watergate apartment of John N. Mitchell, then the Attorney

14 Checks Listed

This security service by the man who was the security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President until his arrest last June 17 is disclosed in a committee memorandum marked "Confidential-Eyes Only" and dated June 19.

The memorandum was written under the committee's letterhead by Robert C. Odle Jr., personnel director of the committee, and sent to Jeb S. Magruder, deputy director of the committee.

The memo, which apparently

**Nixon Re-election Group Paid
\$207 for Security Service,
Secret Memo Reveals**

was requested by Mr. Magruder, lists 14 checks made out to Mr. McCord or to his company, McCord Associates, Inc., of Rockville, Md., from Nov. 15, 1971, to last June, two days after Mr. McCord's arrest.

One of these checks, dated last Jan. 6 and made out to McCord Associates, was for \$832.25. Mr. Odle stated that \$6.25 was for "professional services" in December, and \$207.25 was for "technical inspection of 712 Watergate East."

This was Mr. Mitchell's address at that time. Mr. Mitchell resigned his Cabinet position on March 1 to head the Committee for the Re-election of the President. He resigned that post on July 1 for personal reasons.

Powell Moore, a spokesman for the committee, was asked today why Mr. McCord's com-

pany should be hired to make a technical inspection of the Mitchell apartment at a time when Mr. Mitchell was still Attorney General and could command the service of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Moore replied, "This was also the apartment of Mrs. [Martha] Mitchell, who was then connected with the Committee for the Re-election of the President."

Another check, in the amount of \$269.36, and dated last Jan. 28, was explained by Mr. Odle as "reimbursement for four smoke detectors."

Mr. Odle did not say where the smoke detectors were placed.

This item has attracted the interest of investigators of the House Banking and Currency Committee because the sixth count in the indictment returned by a Federal grand jury on Sept. 15 states that the arrested men had a small white plastic box containing bugging equipment. The box was labeled "smoke detector."