

(Companion story by Robert B. Semple Jr., "Articles Called 'Hearsay,' pasted separately.)

**McGovern Sees 'Sabotage'**

By **JAMES M. NAUGHTON**

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 16—Senator George McGovern charged today that the Nixon Administration had devoted more manpower to efforts to "sabotage" the Democratic campaign than it had assigned to planning for the conversion of the economy to a peacetime footing.

The Democratic Presidential nominee characterized the Administration as the "most ruthless" in history.

Senator McGovern's speech to a group of labor leaders was disrupted by a dispute between a Los Angeles fire marshal and a television crew, causing the nominee to lecture the news media on "maturity."

The thrust of Mr. McGovern's prepared speech was that President Nixon was "so obsessed with political advantage and so obedient to the privileged few" that he had neglected to prepare to convert defense and aerospace industries to peacetime consumer production.

He referred to news accounts

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of alleged efforts by the President's re-election apparatus to disrupt the Democratic campaign through political espionage and intrigue, calling such attempts "the shabbiest undercover operations in the history of American politics."

Out of 2.7-million Federal employes, only 13 individuals are assigned to economic conversion planning, Mr. McGovern asserted. He charged that, by contrast, President's Nixon's campaign had hired 50 or more individuals to "sabotage and corrupt our political process."

**Crew Ordered to Move**

The disruption in his speech before 90 officials of the United Automobile Workers union occurred when William H. Hargett, a senior inspector for the Fire Department, ordered the American Broadcasting Company television crew to move from a position in front of the audience on the ground that the newsmen were blocking a fire aisle. The large room in the International Hotel was far from crowded and the TV crew refused to move.

After 10 minutes, during which the TV crew moved back a few inches but failed to satisfy the fire marshal, Mr. McGovern attempted to dismiss the incident.

A few minutes later, some reporters in the rear of the room asked the fire marshal why he was so strict with an audience of fewer than 200, including the press. Inspector Hargett said he was merely trying to clear a fire aisle.

Mr. McGovern, noticing the incident at the room of the room, said:

"I want to say to the members of the press, let's show a little maturity and sit down and cover this conference instead of this fire marshal."

**Complains of Sideshows**

"One of the reasons the American people don't know some of the tragic things that are going on in this country," the Senator went on, "is because too many of you people in the press are being diverted by these sideshows instead of covering the fundamental issues before this country."

The Senator adopted even stronger impromptu language after he had finished his address and Clarence Gregory, the president of Local 148 of the union, stood on a chair to offer an apology to Mr. McGovern for the disruption.

"We're going out and we're going to work 10 times harder for you," Mr. Gregory said, "because I can see if you're faced

with this kind of paid propaganda [and] disruptive activity every place you go—if that's what it was here today—you're going to have a hard time."

Mr. McGovern stood atop another chair a few feet away as the labor leaders and reporters crowded around.

"I know that we're up against the most ruthless, the most opportunistic, the most heavily financed campaign in the history of the republic," he said.

Charging that wealthy interests had invested \$10-million in a secret Republican campaign fund, Mr. McGovern said: "The dangerous thing about all of this is that, not content with the biggest concentration of money ever compiled for a Presidential campaign, Mr. Nixon has set out through his agents to do something that I think is unprecedented in this country, and that is to literally destroy the political opposition."

Neither Mr. McGovern nor his staff made any charge that the TV incident had been prompted by the opposition party. But it was not until the Senator had boarded his chartered jet for a flight to Austin, Tex., that he learned from aides the details of what the argument between the television crew and the fire marshal had been about.

He subsequently approached several of the newsmen aboard the plane to say: "I want to apologize for blowing up at the press. I didn't realize what you people were trying to do."

He explained that he had been disturbed by the commotion and said that, on reflection, he had felt "a little silly" about what he had said.