

McG Charges GOP Hired 50 Saboteurs

SAN ANTONIO (Tex.) — (AP) — Campaigning before cheering crowds in Texas, Sen. George McGovern is accusing the Republicans of hiring "50 saboteurs" to disrupt the Democratic campaign and of running misleading television commercials to scare the voters.

McGovern's Texas managers said they were heartened by the response received by the Democratic presidential nominee yesterday in speeches to a joint session of the state legislature in Austin, and to rallies that drew crowds estimated

by police at 20,000 in Houston and 10,000 in San Antonio.

The South Dakota senator, winding up a nine-day campaign swing into 11 states, flew to Fort Worth for a rally today before returning to Washington to tape a half-hour speech on the economy. The address is scheduled for national television on Friday night.

Just Pranks?

In a statement today, McGovern said White House aide John Ehrlichman's assessment that activities di-

rected at the Democrats are standard American political pranks "is an attempt to escape responsibility by polluting the faith of the American people in government itself."

"It fuels the smoldering cynicism abroad in our land and it deepens the disillusionment already felt by millions of Americans," McGovern said. "These ambitious men apparently will stop at nothing to preserve their own power. They would undermine the republic to save their White House parking spaces."

Though almost everyone connected with the McGovern campaign in Texas concedes the Democratic nominee trails in the race for the state's 26 electoral votes, State Agriculture Commissioner John White, his co-chairman, says "the race is just getting started in Texas now.

"By election day, it's going to be neck and neck," White told a reporter.

Governor Optimistic

Gov. Preston Smith was even more optimistic about McGovern's chances, telling reporters after the senator's speech to the legislature that "as of today, it's a toss-up." When reporters looked skeptical, he amended that to call it "pretty close."

McGovern was an hour late arriving in San Antonio, and the impatient crowd gathered near the Alamo shouted down former Sen. Ralph Yarborough with cries of "we want George" during his introduction.

As in Houston, McGovern said it is time for the people to have a president, saying that the board of directors of Lockheed Aircraft Corp. and International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. have a president now and "so do the 50 saboteurs who were hired to sabotage the Democratic campaign."

War Chest

McGovern said the Republicans are using a war chest of "tens of millions" to buy "misleading television commercials that twist and distort the positions of the Democratic Party on the great issues of the day."

He said the Republicans "are going to try everything they can that money will buy to scare you into voting for them for another four years."

"Republican propagandists want to scare you into thinking I am a radical," McGovern went on. "They have a lying, deceitful television spot that says George McGovern wants to put 47 percent of the people on welfare.

"That is pure rubbish and these Republican propagandists know it is pure rubbish," he said, renewing his charge that Nixon has been responsible for an increase in welfare rolls from nine million to 15 million people.