

Violence Hits GOP Offices Across U.S.

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Police in several U.S. cities have confirmed a wide range of violence directed at Nixon for President campaign offices. But police and Republican and Democratic campaign workers have failed to connect any of the violence to Sen. George McGovern's campaign organization.

Clark MacGregor, campaign director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, accused The Washington Post Monday of "hypocrisy" in reporting alleged Republican sabotage against the Democrats while "proven facts of opposition—incited disruptions of the President's campaign—are buried deep inside the paper."

MacGregor asked, in a prepared statement, why the newspaper hasn't investigated four instances of violence directed toward Nixon campaign offices.

The four specific incidents mentioned by MacGregor were as follows:

- "The molotov cocktail discovered on Oct. 8 at the door of the Newhall, Calif., Nixon headquarters."

A spokesman for the Newhall sheriff's office said yesterday that a bottle with gasoline was left on the back steps of the headquarters. He said there was no attempt to throw it, or to light it, that it was

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simply placed there, was discovered by a campaign worker, and removed by police. He said there are no suspects, nor any evidence linking the bottle to Democrats.

- "The extensive fire damage suffered Sept. 17 to the Nixon headquarters in Hollywood, Calif."

This is the most serious of the alleged incidents, the only one in which anyone was killed or seriously injured.

Det. Sgt. Paul O'Sheen of the Los Angeles police department's Hollywood division said the arson was not connected to politics, but was a burglary attempt on the firm in whose offices Democrats for Nixon headquarters are located.

O'Sheen said three juveniles broke into the Star City Distributors, a business selling posters, candles, T-shirts, etc. Democrats for Nixon, he said, occupied a corner of the office.

One of the three youths, said O'Sheen, was an electronics buff who attempted to burglarize part of the company's switchboard apparatus. The

youths, he said, set fire to the offices in an attempt to eliminate any fingerprints they might have left, and one of three died in the resulting blaze. The other two were arrested and charged with homicide.

- "The fact that the Democrats for Nixon office was located there was purely coincidental," said O'Sheen.

- "The arson of Sept. 29 which caused more than \$100,000 in damage to the Nixon headquarters in Phoenix, Ariz."

Phoenix police said that at 2:26 a.m. Oct. 29 (the Republicans erred on the date, said police), arsonists spread a flammable liquid through the central hallways of the Nixon headquarters. In the fire, said police, the first floor was destroyed, and the second floor suffered smoke and water damage. Police estimated the total damage between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

There have been no arrests, and there are no suspects, said police.

- "The extensive window-breaking and other trashing this fall at Nixon storefronts in New York City, Arlington,

Mass., and Los Angeles County."

Police in New York City confirmed the placement of one fire bomb and two window-breaking incidents involving Nixon campaign offices.

Fred Perotta, Nixon campaign manager for New York City, said "there is absolutely no evidence that it was McGovern sponsored." Police agreed.

Perotta cited the following incidents, all of which were confirmed by New York City police: a Nixon office at 53d Street and Madison Avenue was damaged during a recent sit-in; a youthful antiwar group loosed live cockroaches into the Nixon headquarters in the Hotel Roosevelt two weeks ago; a fire bomb was thrown into a Nixon storefront at 587 W. 207th St., but was found by police before it exploded.

"Incidents have caused substantial damage," said Perotta, "more so than in any other regular campaign."

Last week, in a memorandum to all state chairmen, MacGregor cited those and other instances of violence directed at the Nixon campaign

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organization. The others were:

- An Oct. 16 takeover in Washington of a 16th Street NW Democrats for Nixon office by welfare rights protesters. Twenty of the demonstrators were arrested after they refused pleas to leave and ripped down campaign posters and other literature. The demonstrators were protesting pending welfare legislation, and although several put McGovern posters up on the walls, there was nothing to link the group with the McGovern campaign organization.

- "The state headquarters for the Nixon re-election committee in Los Angeles has been the target of two major demonstrations." Spokesmen for Los Angeles police said there have been at least "four or five demonstrations" at Nixon campaign offices, and that none of them was sponsored by McGovern demonstrators, although McGovern signs had appeared.

- Various Nixon storefronts throughout Los Angeles County have reported minor damage, such as broken windows, over the past two weeks."

Police there said they had been told of at least three window-breaking incidents. There have been no arrests, and there is no evidence linking the window breakings to the McGovern organization.

- "McGovern headquarters in Los Angeles acknowledges permitting use of its telephones by antiwar demonstrators for the purpose of promoting a major demonstration against the President when he appeared at the Century Plaza Hotel on Sept. 27."

This charge is also significant because, although police reported no damage or serious incidents, it is the only one of all of the incidents that the Republicans have been able to link to McGovern's organization.

Lew Hass of the McGovern Los Angeles office, yesterday denied "permitting the demonstrators to use the telephones. "They did use some phones," he said.

"When we found out about it, we stopped it immediately. People will occasionally stop by and leave off some handbills for distribution that are not connected with the campaign. When we find out about

it, we stop it immediately."

(In Louisville, Ky., White House communications director Herbert G. Klein yesterday charged the McGovern-Shriver headquarters with trying "to incite a riot" during the President's appearance in Los Angeles.

(Klein said that as part of this effort, telephone calls were made and bulletins issued from the Democratic headquarters.)

- "Similar permission was given to use Sen. McGovern's Berkeley (Calif.) headquarters as a 'drop' for literature explaining how and where demonstrators should appear against the President in San Francisco, including an exhortation that the demonstrators should 'take a pig to lunch' and block the President's right to communicate his views to the nation while in San Francisco."

A McGovern spokesman in Berkeley said some literature is occasionally dropped off by demonstrators, but he said it is without the knowledge of the McGovern staff and is halted immediately.

He denied that any of the

literature he had seen contained references to taking a "pig to lunch," and said he had no knowledge of any literature dropped off during that particular demonstration.

- "In Massachusetts, approximately 100 people marched on our state headquarters in Boston. The demonstrators carried placards and leaflets identifying themselves as 'Grassroots McGovern Volunteers.'

After a brief demonstration in front of our headquarters, they attempted to enter the building by force after having been asked to clear the doorway by the building superintendent. Two demonstrators were arrested following a scuffle with police."

A McGovern spokesman in Boston said the incident was a welfare rights demonstration (which police confirmed) and had nothing whatsoever to do with the McGovern organization.

The group, said the McGovern aide, was protesting pending welfare legislation before Congress and the failure of local officials to object to it.

One of the welfare demon-

strators was a local McGovern coordinator during the primaries, but, said the spokesman, was not demonstrating in that capacity.

Police said two persons were charged with assault and battery on a policeman, disorderly conduct and trespassing. They said all but the disorderly conduct charges were dropped, and the two were fined \$5, which was suspended barring further incidents.

"The windows of the Nixon storefront in Arlington, Mass., were broken."

A spokesman for the Arlington police confirmed that a Nixon storefront window was broken Oct. 3. There have been no arrests, and there are no suspects, he said.

The MacGregor memorandum said "there have been numerous other incidents, reported and verified, of a minor nature."

Officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President failed to return seven telephone calls to their offices yesterday to answer inquiries about the other acts of sabotage.
