

McGovern and The Constitution

Cheyney, Pa.

Senator George McGovern challenged Richard Nixon's commitment to the U.S. Constitution yesterday — the day before the President was to travel to Philadelphia, birthplace of the historic document, to sign a revenue sharing bill into law.

Campaigning in the cold, wet and vote-rich Philadelphia area, the Democratic presidential candidate used the Watergate bugging incident and continued American bombing of Vietnam as ammunition for his attacks on Mr. Nixon.

In Essington, Pa, McGovern told a lunchtime audience of workers from the nearby Westinghouse manufacturing plant that Mr. Nixon "has no respect for the Constitution and personal freedom." He said Mr. Nixon has "degraded the Supreme Court . . . and degraded the Congress."

Then, appearing at Cheyney State College with black New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, McGovern remarked on Mr. Nixon's plans to sign the revenue sharing bill in Independence Hall.

"I wish while he was there he would stop to think that this country began with a pledge to recognize the inalienable rights of all citizens of this land. The life, the lib-

erty and the pursuit of happiness, those are the goals that America ought to stand for." McGovern said.

Mrs. Chisholm, who was herself a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination earlier this year, said in her introduction that McGovern shows "compassion, concern and commitment to the little people." She then accompanied McGovern to New York city for a campaign appearance in her congressional district.

Leading up to his attack on Mr. Nixon's commitment to the Constitution, McGovern told the Essington Union Hall audience, "A president who will send his agents over to wiretap the Democratic National Committee, a president who will send saboteurs inside the Democratic ranks to try to sabotage another major national party, that is the kind of a man who won't hesitate to wiretap your union hall . . . or even your home. And that's the real significance of the Watergate scandal."

Following his Cheyney appearance, McGovern was asked by reporters if he had any new specific evidence that Mr. Nixon himself was involved in the Watergate affair. McGovern said, "Well if he isn't (involved), he's lost control of his organization." *Associated Press*