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Rigged TV Poll Laid To GOP

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Workers for President Nixon's re-election committee mailed in more than a third of the favorable responses recorded in a local television poll last year of reaction to the mining of North Vietnamese waters, a campaign official said today.

DeVan L. Shumway, spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said he didn't regard it as rigging the poll because "we felt the Democrats would do the same thing."

'Do What You Can'

"That type of voluntary poll is the most stackable thing," he said. "When you're involved in an election, you do what you can. We assumed the other side would do the same thing."

(By contrast, Frank Mankiewicz, a top official in the Democratic presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern, responded: "We didn't do it. It didn't occur to us. These guys are something. They assume we have the same sleazy ethics as theirs.")

The final result of the poll, as announced by Metromedia station WTTG, was 5157 agreeing with Nixon's decision to mine Haiphong harbor and 1158 disagreeing.

When WTTG reported the results May 15, it said that it had received several thousand postcards that were of a suspicious nature because they apparently had been typed on the same typewriters. Shumway said "about 2000 ballots and responses"

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were mailed by committee workers.

Poll Stacking

The Washington Post quoted James Dooley, former head of the Nixon committee's mailroom, as saying that committee employees sent in about 4000 of the 5157 responses agreeing with the President.

"Work ground to a halt in the press office while everyone filled out 15 postcards," the Post quoted Dooley, 19. Dooley also said committee workers were sent to purchase 1000 newspapers from which WTTG ballots were clipped.

"I think it's a most unfortunate abuse of an honest attempt to survey public opinion," said Ed Turner, news director for Metromedia.

Only yesterday, the Washington Post revealed another attempt at manipulating support for the mining — an \$8400 advertising campaign, supposedly spontaneous and bi-partisan, that was actually created and financed by the re-election committee.

Phony Name

The Post said the committee, under a phony name, bought an ad in the New York Times attacking the latter for its opposition to the bombing.

The Times reported today that the General Accounting charges against the Republicans for not reporting their financial backing of the sup-

Office will seek criminal posedly spontaneous campaign.

The audit report of the GAO, the agency which enforces the Federal Campaign Act, said the ad that appeared in the Times May 17 and other efforts to generate support for the President's decision were paid for out of a fund not reported as stipulated under the Campaign Act, the Times said.

The "coordinator" of the ad was listed as "Patricia O'Leary," who the Times said today was a former secretary of the November Group, a group of advertising executives in charge of the Republicans' presidential campaign advertising. It said Mrs. O'Leary also was the wife of one of the committee's executives, Stephen O'Leary.

The Times quoted O'Leary as saying his wife knew

none of the other people on the list and did not know who paid for the ad.

The GAO audit said the fund for the activity was kept in a safe at the headquarters of the Committee to Re-Elect the President in Washington, the Times said.

The GAO request for criminal charges against the campaign organization must go to the Justice Department, which will have the final say on whether charges are actually filed.

In Los Angeles, a former worker in Nixon's California campaign said he witnessed fellow workers soliciting — and in some cases making up — telegrams to send to the White House supporting the mining of Haiphong harbor.

Larry Carroll, now a reporter for KABC-TV in Los Angeles, said he didn't speak up before for fear of being called a "McGovern spy."