

Nixon's Lawyer No Longer

Herbert Warren Kalmbach

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NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., May 1—For the last five years Herbert Warren Kalmbach has quietly served President Nixon as a political confidant and his personal attorney on the West Coast.

Even more quietly, he has traveled back and forth across the United States and to sources of wealth in this country's embassies abroad, serving as collector of millions of dollars to finance Mr. Nixon's two election campaigns. Today, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said Mr. Kalmbach was no longer handling business for Mr. Nixon.

Described by an admiring California Republican recently as "one of the five men closest to the President," Mr. Kalmbach is credited with personally raising more than \$6-million for the President's election in 1968 and at least \$9-million last year in his role as vice-chairman of finance for the Committee to Re-elect the President.

He was linked to the Watergate case some weeks ago, as the custodian of a \$350,000 secret Republican fund from which he allegedly paid out some \$35,000 in unreported funds to Donald Segretti, another California lawyer, to cover the expenses of political espionage.

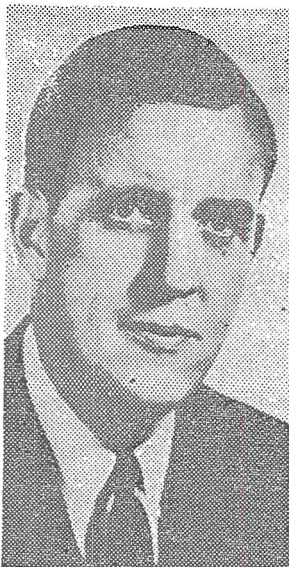
Remains Unruffled

His name was brought into the Watergate case by the grand jury testimony of one of the Watergate burglars, James W. McCord Jr., and he has himself given testimony to the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the affair. His payment to Mr. Segretti reportedly was on instructions from the President's appointment secretary, Dwight L. Chapin.

But in the face of a deluge of press inquiries, Mr. Kalmbach has remained unruffled and uncommunicative as he has since his key role in the covert handling of campaign funds was first brought to light more than a year ago.

It is somewhat ironic that the President's action in casting Mr. Kalmbach adrift comes at a time when the 52-year-old lawyer has been engaged in a battle to uphold Mr. Nixon's prestige among wealthy California Republicans.

Several weeks ago, a faction of the exclusive Lincoln Club of Orange County, disenchanted with Mr. Nixon's policies, persuaded Vice President Agnew to interrupt a



Loyal and helpful to President Nixon.

holiday at Frank Sinatra's sumptuous compound in Palm Springs and come here on Feb. 12 to address a secret meeting of the millionaires' club.

The president of the Lincoln Club is the industrialist Arnold O. Beckman, but its real ruler has been Mr. Kalmbach because of his close ties with the President.

Angered By Invitation

The invitation, extended after reports that Mr. Agnew himself was annoyed with the way things were going at the White House, drew an angry lashing from Mr. Kalmbach. He called the club's homeage to Mr. Agnew "ill-timed" and a disservice to Mr. Nixon at a time when party fortunes depend on a solid phalanx of Republican support.

Always publicity shy, Mr. Kalmbach could not be reached today for comment on the President's action. His secretary, Mrs. Anne Harvey, explaining that he was "somewhere out of the state," held out little hope that he would have anything to say.

Mr. Kalmbach's political interest grew out of his long-time friendship with Robert H. Finch, a former White House aide who is thinking of running for Governor of California.

The two were classmates at the University of Southern California Law School from which they graduated in 1951. Mr. Kalmbach's entry into politics was as Orange County chairman for Mr. Finch's successful race for lieutenant-governor in 1958. In 1962, he labored on behalf of Mr. Nixon's unsuccessful bid for governor.

Mr. Kalmbach was born Oct. 19, 1921 in Port Huron,

Mich. He was admitted to the California bar in 1952 and became vice-president that year of the Los Angeles Security Title Insurance Company, a position he held until 1957 when he entered law practice in Newport Beach.

In 1962 he went to Phoenix as president of the Arizona Title & Trust Company but returned here two years later as vice-president and director of the Macco Realty Company.

Since 1967 he has been a partner of the law firm of Kalmbach, DeMarco, Knapp & Chillingworth, which occupies the lushly furnished top floor of the Irvine Tower here with a panoramic sweep of the Pacific Ocean and the yachts lined up along Newport Beach's "Millionaire's Row." The firm also has offices in Los Angeles.

The law firm's practice has mushroomed since Mr. Kalmbach involved himself with Mr. Nixon's political fortunes and took over as chief strategist of the Lincoln Club of Orange County.

In Washington he maintained an office on the second floor at 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, the address of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and worked closely with Presidential assistant H. R. Halderman.

The Kalmbachs have a large home on Santiago Drive here. Mrs. Kalmbach is the former Barbara Helen Forbush, whom he married June 19, 1948, while still an undergraduate at U.S.C. She says she sees very little of him even on weekends because "he's off traveling somewhere."

She declines to talk about his business because "I don't have much opportunity to discuss things with him, I see him so rarely."

The Kalmbachs have two sons, Kurt and Kenneth, and a daughter, Lauren Ann.

A Newport businessman once described Mr. Kalmbach as "the lawyer with the most-est in these parts" because of his well-known influence at the White House and his personal relationship with the President.

"If you had business with Washington and you want a lawyer, you go to Herb but you can't talk with him for less than \$10,000," the businessman added.

Another source said that Mr. Nixon, after losing out for the California governorship in 1962, sent a note to his campaign workers saying:

"If you need a job, get in touch with Herb and he'll fix something up for you."