

Watergate Figure Preparing

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One of the figures in the Watergate case, still working at the Committee for the Re-election of the President, has been preparing a critique of 1972 campaign techniques for the White House.

He is Frederick C. LaRue, a former White House aide who was special assistant to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell when Mitchell was director of the committee.

LaRue has been under federal grand jury investigation concerning receipt of \$70,000 in cash from the funds that financed the Watergate bugging.

Federal investigators told The Washington Post last month that LaRue received

the \$70,000 two weeks after the June 17 Watergate break-in of Democratic Party headquarters, and several days after Mitchell resigned as campaign director.

LaRue has testified before the grand jury at a time federal investigators have been attempting to establish whether the \$70,000 was used to pay the Watergate conspirators to keep quiet about others involved.

DeVan L. Shumway, a spokesman for the committee, said yesterday that LaRue was "winding up campaign business and some research which will be turned over to (Republican) congressional candidates or the presidential candidate in 1976."

Shumway described LaRue's work as "a study on

what we learned or what we did right and what we did wrong, excepting Watergate. Set Watergate aside," he said, "and it was a very good campaign." The study includes use of polls, direct-mailing lists and other techniques employed in the campaign, he said.

Shumway said LaRue's study was similar to a series of 1972 campaign critiques requested by the White House and have already been compiled campaign committee division heads. He said he thought this report went to the White House some time ago, but was not sure.

LaRue was at his desk yesterday at the committee office at 1701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. He said he had already completed the cam-

paign study and was working on another project, which he did not identify. He said he was not on the committee payroll and never had been. He is a wealthy Jackson, Miss., oil man who helped organize the South for Mr. Nixon's 1968 GOP nomination drive and later worked at the White House.

Investigators told the Post last month that the \$70,000 received by LaRue came from a large cash fund kept in the office safe of former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, asked at his noon briefing yesterday whether LaRue was handling any matters

Critique of '72 Campaign

for the President or for his re-election committee, replied flatly: "No."

Nearly six months after the successful completion of their primary mission, both the re-election and the finance committee are still in business, largely captives of the Watergate affair and campaign spending and legal ramifications of each.

With Shumway and Edward Cowling, a lawyer, and three secretaries as the only remaining paid employees, CRP is keeping this nucleus mainly to meet the needs of the grand jury and the Senate Select Committee investigating the Watergate, and to handle legal problems growing out of suits against the committee.

These include the Demo-

cratic Party's suit for \$6.4 million in damages for the Watergate break-in and Common Cause's suit to force full disclosure by Stans' committee of campaign contributions made prior to April 7, 1972, when a new disclosure law became effective.

The finance committee, Shumway said, also continues to work on reports to the General Accounting Office, as required by law. In the most recent report, dated March 10, the committee had \$4.7 million in its bank accounts, he said.

The continued operation of the re-election committee led Sen. Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) to propose Monday night that it be disbanded, with the funds on

hand placed in escrow pending settlement of its legal obligations and then "disposed of as provided by law." Shumway said yesterday "I haven't the slightest idea" when the committee will be closed down. "I think events will determine that decision," he said.

Since the fall campaign, when the two committees employed about 325 workers and occupied three floors at their present location and two others across the street, the committees have scaled down to two small suites.

Shumway said he is in charge of the office, under Stans, and does not report to anyone at the White House. "I take advice from the White House," he said, "but we're sort of an inde-

pendent arm over here. I know this sounds awkward, but that's because it is."

Seated in front of a cabinet with a row of 15 wide loose-leaf binders bearing names of most of the principals in the Watergate case, Shumway said CRP had been much misunderstood. He said a million volunteers, like himself, were motivated by service to country. "I hope the Committee for the Re-election of the President doesn't go down in history as anything other than what it was, which was a committee to re-elect a President, and it succeeded in that purpose, though to a large extent I think the President re-elected himself," he said. "I think we're getting a bum rap."