

Report of a Haldeman Plot to Discredit Ervin

Charlotte, N.C.

The Charlotte Observer quoted sources yesterday as saying the White House tried, and failed, two months ago to enlist North Carolina Republicans in an effort to discredit Watergate investigator Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr.

Ervin is a North Carolina Democrat.

The Observer said in a dispatch from its Washington bureau that high officials in the North Carolina Republican party confirmed Wednesday that H. R. Haldeman made two attempts to enlist state GOP officials in an attempt to "dig up something" on Ervin.

The dispatch said:

"According to sources, Haldeman placed two phone calls to former White House aide Harry Dent and asked Dent to relay the suggestion to State Republican Chairman Frank Rouse.

"The GOP sources said that Dent contacted Rouse, but that both men agreed that it was an unwise and improper suggestion. Nothing was ever done to carry it out, the sources said.

"It was not clear precisely what tactics Haldeman had in mind for the proposed moves against Ervin, chairman of the Senate committee investigating the Water-

gate affair, or whether he had given any specific suggestions to Dent. "Dent, vacationing in Germany, denied that Haldeman had contacted him. Rouse, during an interview in Washington, declined to comment.

Associated Press

*18 Mar - Ervin continues to challenge Nixon on executive privilege, says he will use Senate contempt and arrest powers against White House aides who refuse to cooperate. (SFChronicle 19 Mar 73.)