

# Anti-Wallace Plan by GOP

Washington Post Service

## Los Angeles

The Committee for the Re-election of the President spent \$10,000 in campaign money in an elaborate plan to deter a possible third-party presidential drive in California by George Wallace in 1971.

The scheme failed, but not before the local California operatives allegedly hired a team of American Nazis to convince American Independent Party (AIP) voters to change their registration.

If enough people changed, the operatives figured, Wallace could be knocked off the California ballot on a technicality, freeing those crucial votes for President Nixon.

The payments for re-registration drive were authorized by Jeb Stuart Magruder, former national director of the re-election committee, the Washington Post learned, and may have involved then-Attorney General John Mitchell.

The connection between the re-election committee

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and the re-registration scheme was established yesterday in testimony before the Senate Watergate committee by Hugh Sloan Jr., who was treasurer of the re-election committee in 1971 and early 1972.

Sloan told the committee that the \$10,000 was given in 1971 to Lyn Nofziger, who later became director of the re-election campaign in California. Its purpose, Sloan said he later heard from "people in the campaign," was "with regard to the Wallace primary."

Nofziger, reached in Sacramento where he is now running the 1974 gubernatorial campaign for Republican Lieutenant Governor Red Reinecke, acknowledged that he received the money on the request of Magruder to be passed on to a California go-between for use in the re-registration drive.

## DRIVE

That drive, Nofziger said, was the brainchild of Robert Walters, an advertising man and former Wallace worker long active in right-wing causes in Orange county, Calif., and in Los Angeles.

"Bob Walters, who used to be a member of AIP, came around to them (Magruder and the Committee for the Re-election of the President) and said there was a way to purge the AIP voter list so they wouldn't have enough voters to qualify for the California ballot," said Nofziger,

er, who once was press secretary to California Governor Ronald Reagan.

Nofziger continued: "He (Walters) had talked to Magruder and Magruder came to me around September or October 1971, and said, 'Can you find somebody in California to pay the expenses?' The price tag by Walters was \$10,000.

"I said I could, and I did. I then went over to the Committee to Re-elect Magruder's invitation and picked up an envelope from Sloan.

"I assume it was cash because the envelope was quite thick, but I didn't look inside. I gave it to a guy who worked for me (I was still with the Republican National Committee at the time) and he carried it to California and gave it to somebody who distributed it."

## INTERMEDIARY

Nofziger refused to name the California intermediary, but the man was identified independently as Jack B. Lindsey, a Los Angeles food wholesaler and active Republican who once served in the Reagan administration and was close friends with Nofziger.

Asked about Lindsey, Nofziger acknowledged the friendship but said, "I'm just not going to discuss that, that's all."

Both Lindsey, who is head of early California Foods Inc., and Walters, approached on the same subject eight months ago by a Washington Post, had flatly denied any involvement with the

But details of the re-registration plan, including the involvement of American Nazi canvassers, were outlined by a former aide to Walters, Glenn Barker, during the Washington Post's initial investigation last October.

## PLAN

The re-registering plan was based on a provision of California law that requires a political party's registration to exceed one-fifteenth of total state registrars for the ballot. With a deadline of Jan. 1, 1972, it would be ne-

cessary to convert all but 10,000 of the 140,000 registered AIP voters — an enormous task.

Given the go-ahead from Mitchell and Magruder, Parker said he and Walters met the following day with Lindsey, who gave him the first of several payments totaling \$10,000. The first payment was \$2500 in \$100 bills, Parker said.

Walters, who had broken with Wallace a year earlier and had had a running factional battle with other leaders of AIP in California, launched the registration drive.

He tried to use as recruiters conservative Republicans, notably members of a right-wing Republican volunteer group, United Republicans of California. Using the name Committee Against Forced Busing as a front, the plan was for volunteer canvassers to visit AIP registrants throughout the state and convince them to change registration temporarily to Democrat or Republican so they could vote against candidates in the primary who favored forced busing.

## SCHEME

But word got out — not only to AIP leaders, but conservative UROC members — that the scheme was a disguised effort on behalf of Mr. Nixon.

It was then, around mid-November, according to Parker, that he and Walters turned to the American Nazis for help.

Parker said he and Walters met with Joseph Tommasi in mid-November, 1971, and offered him \$5000 if he would use some of his storm troopers as registrar

Tommasi, 22, who runs the Southern California branch of the Nazi party, confirmed the offer. He said that a group of about 20 of his men, dressed neatly in civilian clothes, fanned out in the area, carrying registration lists denoting AIP-member homes.

The registration drive was a dismal failure. California AIP registration actually increased by 6500 voters.