

GOP Agent Tells Of Muskie Mission

Washington

A former FBI agent told the Senate Watergate committee yesterday that, while he was working for the Office of Economic Opportunity, he often spent lunch hours spying on the presidential campaign of Senator Edmund S. Muskie.

John R. Buckley, who was called "Fat Jack" by his superiors in President Nixon's re-election committee, termed his espionage activities legal, moral and ethical and declared that similar work was done as "a matter of course" in most political campaigns.

That assessment was challenged by senators on the committee. Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the committee chairman, said that there had been no spying in any race he was involved in and added:

"I refuse to accept your theory that, because there has been murder and larceny in every generation, murder had become meritorious."

Buckley was to be followed to the witness stand by another man who worked in espionage activities for the Nixon campaign, Michael McMinoway. But McMinoway's attorney could not appear because his plane was grounded in Louisville, and McMinoway's testimony was rescheduled for today.

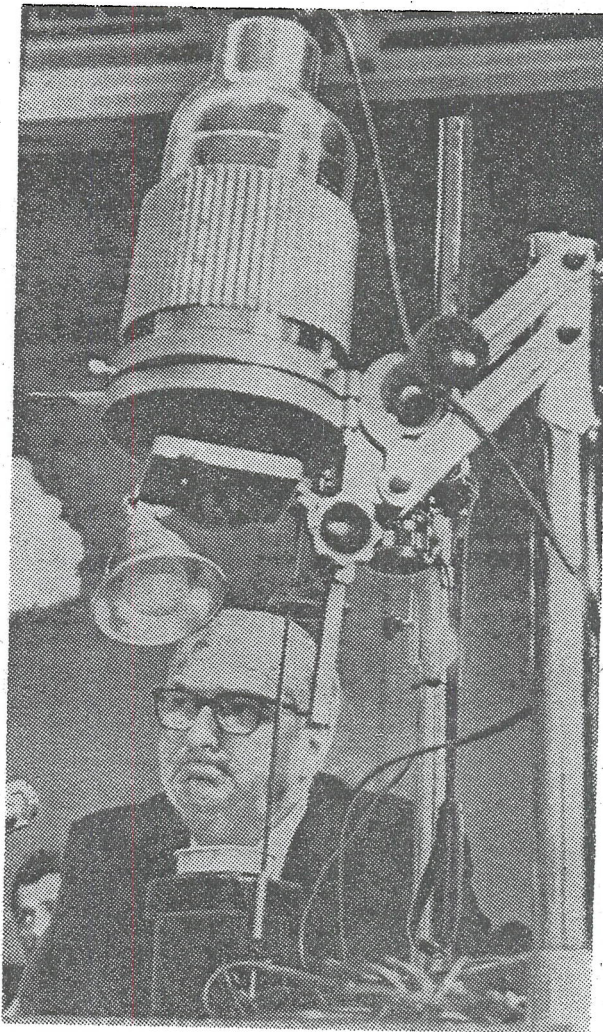
In addition to Buckley's testimony, however, there were these other developments yesterday:

- A committee official acknowledged that an investigator had interviewed Charles G. Rebozo, one of President Nixon's closest friends, about allegations that Rebozo had collected \$100,000 in cash campaign contributions from an agent of Howard Hughes.

- The committee voted to begin today an inquiry into "dirty tricks" pulled on behalf of Democratic presidential candidates.

- The lawyer for the Institute for Policy Studies, a liberal nonprofit public affairs organization here, filed an affidavit with the committee charging that government agencies had wiretapped and broken into the institute's offices.

Buckley, 53, a retired agent of the FBI, was the director of the inspection di-



AP Wirephoto

John R. Buckley sat beside the photographic equipment he said he used to copy documents.

vision at OEO until last June, when he retired.

He told the committee that he was given \$1000 a month in late 1971 and early 1972 by Kenneth S. Reitz, then youth director of the President's re-election campaign, and asked to gather inside information about Muskie's campaign operations.

DRIVER

Buckley said that he paid most of the money to a retired taxi driver, who was a friend of his, and had the driver volunteer to make deliveries for the Maine Senator. But he said that he also spent a sizable sum of the money, which came from contributions to the President's campaign committee, to buy photographic equipment and to rent a small office near the Muskie headquarters.

Buckley testified that he the driver, Elmer Wyatt, had documents to be delivered from Muskie's political headquarters to the Senator's Capitol Hill office, he

called Buckley at the OEO.

Buckley testified that he would leave the OEO at lunchtime, meet Wyatt at a street corner, take the documents to the office he had rented and take pictures of the ones he found interesting.

WORTHLESS

Much of the material was worthless, Buckley said, but periodically he photographed itineraries and position papers. He said that he turned over the pictures, also during the lunch hour, to Nixon campaign officials whom he met on corners near the White House.

At first, he said, he gave the pictures to Reitz, but later his contact was E. Howard Hunt Jr. Hunt has acknowledged having participated in the burglaries at the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate building in June, 1972, and at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist the previous summer.

New York Times