

GOP Unit Mailings Aid Nixon

By Dick Barnes
Associated Press

Although Republican National Chairman George Bush said he was disturbed by portions of President Nixon's taped Watergate conversations, the GOP National Committee paid more than \$10,000 to finance a massive White House mail campaign circulating a favorable interpretation of the transcripts.

Party headquarters has regularly processed and paid for White House mailings to interest groups and communications media. The transcript material was by far the most massive this year.

William J. Baroody Jr., special consultant to the President who deals with outside organizations, directed that a 15-page packet be sent to more than 28,000 persons whose names were taken from more than 40 mailing lists maintained by the GOP.

The recipients ranged from leaders of veterans' organizations to Chamber of Commerce officials; from 1972 Nixon campaign workers to members of the Teamsters union executive board.

The mailing included the text of Mr. Nixon's April 29

address in which he said he would turn over edited transcripts, but not original tapes, to the House Judiciary Committee studying impeachment.

A "key facts" sheet in the President of the United States mailing said Mr. Nixon had "more than complied" with the subpoena. It also declared: "Not once in the mounds of evidence supplied to the committee does it appear that he was engaged in a criminal plot to obstruct justice."

A similar mailing ordered by Ken W. Clawson, White House communications director, went to 3,269 news organizations and publications.

Both mailings included brief transcript excerpts supporting Mr. Nixon's contention that he knew nothing of the Watergate cover-up until March 21, 1973.

Bush had said after reading the transcripts that their tone was disturbing and that he was "shook up" about some portions, although he said other segments tended to support Mr. Nixon.

A party official said there was no special discussion about the massive mailings and that they were sent out routinely, as were 37 other mailings for the White House this year.

Most of the mailings ordered this year by Clawson and Baroody have dealt with Nixon programs in such areas as energy, transportation and education. But some concerned Watergate and related affairs.