

Chicago Mail Stamped By Watergate Thought

CHICAGO, July 3 (AP)—The Watergate entanglement has spread to the Chicago post office. But this time the public is the perpetrator, not the victim, postal officials say.

At least six "first class" letters have been delivered in Chicago stamped only with a California artist's Watergate commemoratives, Martin McGee, the Postal Service's chief regional inspector said today.

But those found could be the tip of an iceberg, McGee said, because the chief guard against the use of the such stamps in lieu of regular postage is the human eye.

In Washington, a Postal Service spokesman said he was not aware of any similar occurrences in other cities, adding that investigation of the bogus stamps would be up to the Chicago postal inspector.

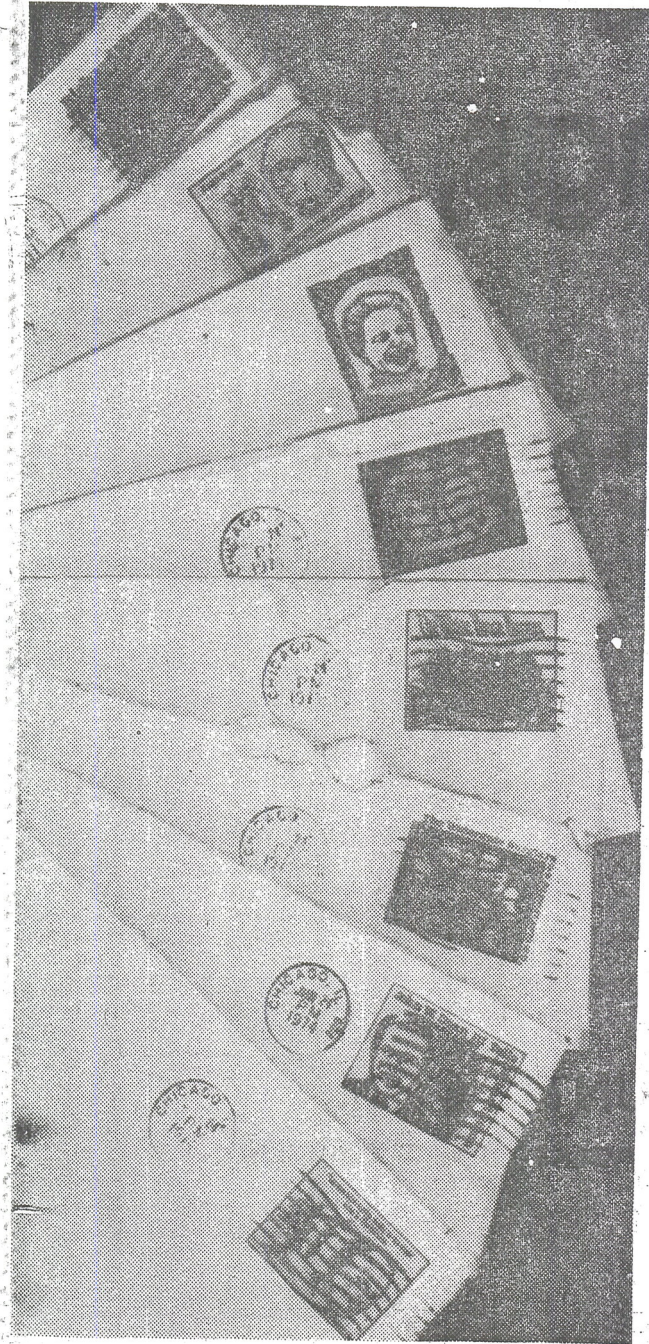
The stamps carry likenesses of Martha Mitchell, John Dean, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and others who figured in the Watergate scandal.

They were designed by California artist Peter Martin, who has been quoted as saying they should be added to correspondence to "help affix Watergate's dire message in our memory . . ."

There is nothing illegal in using them, or similar stamps offered by many charitable groups, as long as there is no intent to defraud the Postal Service, officials

said. Used in lieu of postage, they are another matter, McGee said.

"We're starting an investigation," McGee said. "Anytime someone uses bogus stamps it's loss of revenue."



Associated Press

Several Chicago letters sent with Watergate "postage."