

Sabotage Try By Nixon in '62 Charged

By Michael Harris

Former Democratic State Chairman Roger Kent charged yesterday that two of President Nixon's current White House aides set a pattern for sabotaging the Democratic Party during Mr. Nixon's unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1962.

As evidence, Kent produced a sworn deposition signed by H. R. Haldeman, the President's chief of staff.

In his deposition, Haldeman said he had authorized payment of \$70,000 to the late Joe Robinson, San Francisco petition circulator, for sending out postcards from a "Committee for the Preservation of the Democratic Party in California" seeking to discredit Governor Edmund G. Brown.

STATEMENT

Haldeman's statement said the group who joined him in approving the Republican-financed mailing included Herb Klein, now White House communications director; Herbert Kalmbach, now the President's personal lawyer; Maurice Stans, former Secretary of Commerce and chairman of the President's campaign finance committee, and Murray Chotiner, a sometime Nixon political adviser.

The deposition came as part of a law suit that ended in 1964 when Superior Court Judge Byron Arnold issued a ruling in which he said, "Mr. Nixon and Mr. Haldeman approved the plan . . . and agreed that the Nixon campaign committee would finance the project."

The judge ordered the committee to cease any further activities and to turn over the \$368 left in its treasury to the Democratic State Central Committee.

JUDGE

Haldeman was questioned in 1963 in Los Angeles by Anthony Gerald J. O'Gara, now a San Francisco Municipal Court Judge.

Haldeman: I had conversations with a number of campaign people at the time we were making the decision to go into this.

O'Gara: Who were those people?

Haldeman: Well, I don't know that I can cover them because again, it was my practice to consult with a lot of people on things of this sort. I would say that originally it would have been Herb Klein.

QUESTIONS

In response to questions by O'Gara, Haldeman identified his initials, "H.R.H.," on two documents authorizing payments of \$35,000 each from the Nixon campaign to pay the costs of the mailing.

"In the light of the official findings of Judge Arnold in 1964," Kent asked, "do you believe that candidate Nixon and Haldeman are innocent of complicity in the Watergate bugging and other espionage and sabotage in 1972?"

The White House issued a statement last week denying that Haldeman had any connection with a secret fund that Democrats say financed political sabotage and espionage in this year's campaign.