

MacGregor Identifies Four Who Guided Special Fund

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By NICHOLAS GAGE OCT 27 1972

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, acknowledged today that selected members of the re-election effort had control of a special cash fund but he insisted that

it had not been used to underwrite sabotage against the Democrats.

He said that the money had been used for preliminary planning of President Nixon's campaign and to determine if there had been any organized efforts to disrupt "the presentation of the President's case" in the New Hampshire primary in March.

Mr. MacGregor said that the money was under the control of Jeb Stuart Magruder, a deputy director of the re-election committee; Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President; G. Gordon Liddy, the finance committee counsel, who has been indicted in the break-in and alleged bugging at the Democratic headquarters here, and Bert Porter, an advance man with the re-election committee.

He said that some of the money had been left over from the 1968 political campaign and the rest had been collected before last April 7, when the new law governing campaign financing went into effect. He

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did not say how much money was in the special fund.

The New York Times has learned that sworn testimony by individuals connected with the re-election effort asserts that a cash fund of \$900,000 was collected and turned over to key officials in the President's campaign drive.

Sources close to the investigation of the case said tonight that, contrary to Mr. MacGregor's assertions, some of the cash funds had been used to finance intelligence gathering and disruption of Democratic campaign efforts.

Mr. MacGregor, interviewed by Elizabeth Drew of the National Public Affairs Center for Television, said that he was not fully informed on the cash fund because he became chairman only last July 1, when former Attorney General John W. Mitchell resigned.

Denies Haldeman Role

He asserted categorically, however, that H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's Chief of Staff, had nothing to do with the fund. The Washington Post linked him to the fund yesterday.

"At no time has Bob had any tie whatever to the funds contributed, at any time," he said.

In a telephone interview after his television appearance, Mr. MacGregor said that he had asked all individuals who had responsibility over the funds, except Mr. Liddy, whether any money had been used for espionage or sabotage against the Democrats, and they said it had not.

He emphasized that he was relying on what he had been

told about events before he became the committee chairman and that he had no direct knowledge of what had happened.

On television, he said that whether the fund used by the re-election officials was a secret one was a question of semantics.

While the donors of the money have not been disclosed, he said, there has been no attempt to maintain a hidden fund to finance improper activities.

Most of the \$900,000 in cash that testimony said was collected by the group came in before last April 7 so that the donors did not have to be reported.

As the money arrived, the donations were recorded in a log by the finance committee, according to the testimony.

On April 7 the log was destroyed and only a summary sheet of the donations was kept. Sometime later, however, that, too, was destroyed so that no record now remains, the testimony shows.

After the money was collected, control of the cash was not retained by the Finance committee, as was control of other contributions.

Selected individuals in the re-election effort assumed responsibility for the money. Mr. MacGregor said yesterday that the individuals might have included others than the four he named. "But I am not aware of any others," he said.

He denied that Dwight L. Chapin, a close aide to the President, was involved in any way with alleged sabotage efforts against Democrats by Donald H. Segretti, a college friend of Mr. Chapin.

"Dwight Chapin just simply had no knowledge of and was not involved in any way," he said.

He charged that articles in The Washington Post linking Mr. Haldeman to the use of committee funds and alleging that the President's committee planned and directed disruption efforts against Democrats were based on erroneous hearsay.

450 Groups Set Up

While the accuracy of The Post's allegation concerning Mr. Haldeman was in dispute, testimony has established that another White House aide played a role in the financial operations of the re-election effort.

The contributions to the President's campaign has been channeled to more than 450 separate committees set up to receive donations. The charters for about 100 of them were drawn from a master document drafted by John W. Dean 3d, White House counsel. Mr. Dean is the man who conducted an internal investigation for the President into the break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex here.

The President's committee set up the 450 units using staff members to serve as chairmen and using employes at banks where checks were deposited to serve as treasurers.

A deposition filed in the United States District Court here yesterday outlined how this procedure worked in the establishment of 50 committees set up to receive \$322,500 in contributions from the dairy industry.

The suit, filed by Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, charges that the Nixon Admin-

istration raised the Federal price support level for milk in return for the contributions from the milk industry.

The deposition was taken from C. Jackson Ritchie Jr., vice president of the Union Trust Company, where accounts for the 50 committees were opened.

Mr. Ritchie testified that the bank had been sent a list of the committees with the names of the chairmen and had been asked to find employes who would serve as treasurers. The bank complied with the request, he said.

On questioning by William A. Dobrovir, attorney for Mr. Nader, Mr. Ritchie said that one of the 50 committees had as its chairman E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the seven men indicted in the Watergate case.

He said that, for a reason that was unclear to him, no account was ever opened for the Hunt committee. The name of it, he said, was the Committee for Greater Community Involvement.

In another development, the United States Attorney's office, in answer to a motion filed today, named Alfred C. Baldwin 3d, a former security guard employed by the Committee for the Re-election of the President, as a co-conspirator in the Watergate case. He was not named in the original indictment.

Mr. Baldwin, who has been granted immunity by the Government and is expected to be one of the main witnesses for the prosecution, said in an interview last month that he had monitored the phone taps on the national headquarters of the Democratic party at the Watergate.