



MURRAY CHOTINER
... cites newspaper

Chotiner Files Libel Suit in N.H.

Pat 5/5/73

CONCORD, N.H., May 4 (AP)—Murray M. Chotiner, a former aide to President Nixon, filed a \$3 million libel suit today against the Manchester, N.H., Union Leader for a story that linked Chotiner to the Watergate affair.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court, also names as a defendant the author of the story, reporter Arthur C. Egan Jr. The suit claims the story falsely reported that Chotiner had "organized three separate political espionage-sabotage teams" including one that "was caught in the now famous Watergate Caper."

Chotiner's complaint alleges the copyrighted story of April 27 was intended "to destroy his [Chotiner's] reputation, to damage and destroy his professional practice of the law . . . and to falsely hold him up to public ridicule, disgrace and

scandal."

William Loeb, publisher of the Union Leader, could not be reached for comment. He is out of the country, a spokesman for the paper said.

Egan commented, "I stand on my story, the material for which was collected from personal contact with all the people named in the story or their representatives."

The suit notes that the article contends "Chotiner 'contrived an ingenious plan' to collect large sums of money from 'gambling interests in Las Vegas and from money diverted from the pension fund of the International Teamsters Union as a secret fund from' which to finance the alleged criminal conspiracy.

"The innuendo intended and understood by this publication was that plaintiff is a master criminal who developed an illegal scheme to finance the alleged criminal conspiracy, and it is wholly false," the suit charges.

The suit also denied that "one contribution of \$175,000 was given to Chotiner by Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons" and that it "was not reported on Nixon's campaign lists but was kept in a secret fund maintained by Chotiner."

The complaint stated "the innuendo intended and understood by this . . . was that plaintiff had received an illegal political contribution which had been illegally secreted by Nixon, and that he used the monies to pay for criminal activities of political espionage and sabotage, and it is wholly false."