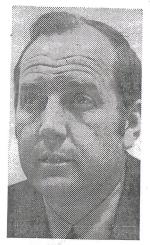
Harry Dent Resigns Republican Counsel

By Lou Cannon Washington Post Staff Writer

Former White House political aide Harry J. Dent, 43, under investigation for a minor violation of the federal Corrupt Practices Act, resigned yesterday as general counsel of the Republican National Committee.

Republican National Chairman Mary Louise Smith announced to a closed-door session of the party's executive committee that she had accepted the resignation Dent, who is expected to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge of aiding and abetting a violation of the act.

Dent, a South Carolinian who is widely regarded as a principal author of former, a committee that failed to reg-President Nixon's "Southern ister as required by law. Strategy," has been under investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor's office for his alleged role in distributing far-ranging \$2 million procampaign funds from a secret gram aimed at refurbishing White House fund in behalf of



HARRY J. DENT . . . willing to go

The Republican Executive Committee also approved a

See GOP, A6, Col. 6

GOP, From A1

the sagging image of the Republican Party. One of its central features is a television advertising campaign intended to attract voters to the GOP.

Approval of the program was tantamount to a vote of confidence for Mrs. Smith and for Eddie Mahe, executive director of the Republican National Committee, who proposed the plan.

However, Missmuri Christopher S. Bond indicated Banowsky, the GOP national reservations about the cost committeeman from Califorand timing of the program, nia and president of Pepper-Kalmbach, President Nixon's and former National Chair-dine College. man Ray Bliss said the success of the party will depend upon ceived as the party of the rich, President Ford's performance, white, middle-class," Banownot upon any advertising cam-sky was quoted as saying. paign.

Mrs. Smith promised that are." the content of the advertising will be determined by the results of an in-depth survey on tive committee members the voter attitudes now being conducted by Detroit pollster preconceptions.

"It's not going to be an artificial, phony advertising pro- the Republican National Com- reportedly was headed by she said after the mittee. meeting. "It's going to tell the real story of the Republican Party and address and the played a part in the resignal Dent's role reportedly was to ple."

There was little illusion on willingness to step aside if his Americans about the GOP.

Responding to questions, Teeter said the GOP has long

The bluntest statement about the present low repute of the party came from Dr. William

"It's not only that we're per-"That's often what we actually

Banowsky also called to the attention of his fellow execufact that the meeting was held behind closed doors. This has Robert Teeter rather than on been a long-established practice of the executive commit-

conveyed to party officials his campaign funds.

the executive committee about continued employment as genthe opinions now held by eral counsel became an embarrassment.

Dent had been presumed reluctant to resign lest it seem been considered "the party of an admission that would damthe rich" and that it had also age his negotiations with the lost its reputation for inte-Watergate prosecutors. Mrs. Smith emphasized that acceptance of his resignation did not involve an admission of wrongdoing.

The investigation of Dent arose from a statement made last February by Herbert former personal attorney, when Kalmbach pleaded guilty to federal campaign law violations.

Kalmbach said that Dent, former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and Jack A. Gleason, a GOP fund-raiser formerly on Dent's White House staff, ran the campaign fund distribution from a District of Columbia townhouse.

The "townhouse operation," tee, the policy-making body of as the government called it, Gleason and distributed about Republican Party preoccu-\$12 million to Republican pation with its "image" also House and Senate candidates. concerns of the American peo- tion of Dent, who had quietly determine the allocation of the