

California," it covers the months of February through November, 1972.

"The Communications Division of the California campaign," states the report, "was organized to provide a propaganda effort unprecedented in previous statewide campaigns." Among other accomplishments, it mobilized a letter-writing crew of 1,500 and recruited a "volunteer corps that kept track of news shows and equal time treatment."

This Nixon Newswatch, as it was called, "was able to apply pressure to stations to give better treatment to the President's campaign than many were inclined to do by themselves."

The Nixon Newswatch also "provided lists of broadcast commentators critical of the President. In some instances, station managers, stockholders and program sponsors sent written letters protesting the use of their funds for certain programs."

Pressure was brought on California TV stations, for example, to cancel my own syndicated TV commentaries. Radio tapes, featuring Vice President Agnew cracking jokes about me, were also fed to California stations.

These stations were also given tapes, incidentally, of L. Patrick Gray, then acting FBI director, solemnly declaring

that President Nixon would never politicize the FBI. The fact that Gray provided statements for use in the campaign, of course, was itself a political abuse of the bureau.

The letters to the editor campaign, according to the confidential report, was even more successful. "Thousands of letters on selected topics," says the report, "(were) written to re-emphasize key issues ..."

Payola Report—The Justice Department is finally looking into the payola and drugola scandal in the record industry, which we exposed in a series of columns beginning in March, 1972.

Meanwhile, we continue to get reports of dubious dealings in the disc industry. For example, a record promoter, which the Better Business Bureau says has "all the earmarks of a 'song shark'," is still doing mail business out of Baton Rouge, La. The Better Business Bureau says it has received numerous complaints about Ebb Harrison Sr., head of Ebb-Tide II and Golden Records.

Harrison told us the Better Business Bureau charges were "hogwash," adding that, "we live up to our contracts. It may take time, but when we do a record, it's a hit."

Nixon Tactics—The details continue to leak out how President Nixon's campaign managers manipulated the media during the 1972 re-election campaign. A confidential California report, for example, tells of staged "news" events, bogus "letters to the editor" and high-pressure tactics designed to stifle the President's critics:

The report was written by Jack Easton, communications director for the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Entitled, "Communications Report for the State of

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