## unds Linked to GOP Aides

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Funds for the Watergate espionage operation were controlled by the principal assistants of former Nixon campaign manager John N. Mitchell and were kept in a special by a federal grand jury. account at the Committee for the Re-election for the President, The Washington Post has learned.

\$300,000 earmarked for sensi-gathering information about sources, including investigative political projects.

Included in those projects was the espionage campaign Nixon's re-election committee, against the Democrats, for which seven persons-including two former White House aides-were indicted Friday

It could not be learned whether the Mitchell aides, who include persons who once worked at the White House, The Mitchell assistants, all knew that funds would specifiof whom still hold policy-mak- cally be expended for the puring positions on a high level in pose of illegal electronic sur-President Nixon's re-election veillance. However, associates

the Democrats.

A spokesman for President informed of The Post's story, said late yesterday afternoon that "there have been and are used for various legitimate purposes such as reimbursement for expenditures for advances on travel. However, no one employed by this committee at this time has used any funds (for purposes) that were illegal or improper."

The Post's information campaign, were among 15 per- told The Post that the aides about the funds and their relasons who had access to the se-were aware that the money tionship to the Watergate case

tors, other federal sources and officials and employees of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The \$300,000 fund also was used for travel and entertaincash funds in this committee ment that campaign officials did not want known outside the campaign organization. One source said the money was in part used for routine and legal intelligence gathering about Democrats.

> The fund was kept in the safe of former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, the chief Nixon fund-raiser. It is presumably the same money

cret fund of more than would be spent generally on was obtained from a variety of See WATERGATE, A16, Col. 1

## WATERGATE, From A1

that the General Accounting Office cited in an Aug. 26 report as a violation of the new campaign disclosure law, because it had not been properly accounted for. The GAO, the inestigative arm of Congress, fund contained \$350,000.

Sources said that Stans had no previous knowledge of the the list showed that the larg-tapped telephone at Demo-Watergate bugging-a position est individual sums of money cratic headquarters. he has taken in public on numerous occasions, though he has not answered reporters Mitchell, then still the Presiquestions directly.

Only one accounting of the special fund—a single piece of on July 1, saying it was be- Watergate affair who has been lined ledger paper listing the names of 15 persons with ac-sisted he leave politics. cess to the money and the

funds took effect, the sources gate bugging. told the Post.

late yesterday that such a list ever existed.

were distributed to a handful dent's campaign manager.

Mitchell resigned that post

She said at the time that "I Party. amount each received-was love my husband very much, Baldwin

maintained. It was purposely but I'm not going to stand for destroyed shortly before April all those dirty things that go 7, the ate that the new cam-on." The former Attorney paignfinance law requiring de- General has repeatedly denied tailed accounting of election any knowledge of the Water-

The Mitchell aides who re-A spokesman for the Nixon ceived money from the secret re-election committee denied account include individuals who reportedly were sent confidentil memos containing in-On the day it was destroyed formation obtained from a

The names of those Mitchell of campaign aides closest to aides also appear in an account of the espinage operation told by Alfred Baldwin, a self-described participant in the cause his wife, Martha, in-interviewed by both the FBI and lawyers for the Democratic

reportedly

granted immunity from prose-Baldwin also said he was as-intelligence operation was deformer FBI agent who was the Republican convention. hired as a security guard for Martha Mitchell and subsequently was assigned to moniplified the money for Baldwin's Watergate activities and other point of distribution in the Fitor conversations intercepted aspects of the intelligence-nance Committee for the Refrom the telephone of a Demo- gathering campaign was man- election of the President. cratic official with offices in aged by the "political side" of the Watergate.

for the Bureau with the same cally kept on the financial the money was distributed by name is Alfred C. Baldwin III, side, headed by former Com-Liddy, the sources said. age 37, who was an agent from merce Secretary Stans. 1963 to 1965. Meanwhile, a lection committee confirmed nearly \$50,000 from the secret ligence-gathering and political that an Alfred Baldwin account. Except for ex-White espionage, according to one "worked briefly" as a security House aide G. Gordon Liddy, source. However, others at guard for Mrs. Mitchell, the former finance counsel of the Nixon committee knew of though his name does not appear on the committee's payroll.

In his account to the Democrats, Baldwin said that one of the men indicted Friday in the Watergate case —James W. McCord Jr., the former security coordinator of the Nixon re-election committee-sent memos and transcript of the bugged conversations to a White House aide and several high officials in the Nixon campaign - including the Mitchell aides.

According to Baldwin's account, McCord brought him into the espionage operation as a wireap monitor on May 10 or 11 and told him that he would be assigned the same task in Miami during the Democratic National Convention.

cution in the Watergate case, signed by McCord to infiltrate scribed to The Washington in exchange for telling the Vietnam Veterans Against the Post as being an "extremely federal grand jury his version War for the purpose of "em- complex transaction." It was of the espionage conspiracy. barrassing the Democrats" if designed to eliminate the pos-He has described himself as a the veterans demonstrated at sibility of tracing any of the

The secret fund that supthe Nixon re-election commit-Yesterday the FBI said the tee—that part directly under to maintain the single-sheet only agent who ever worked Mitchell's control-but physi-

In some cases, individual day, no other officials of the projects. finance operation are known to have obtained money from about the Watergate break-in the account.

money from the fund to the together."

funds to their original source -thought to be campaign con-

In the interest of secrecy only one person was assigned list of transactions. Usually,

Besides the Mitchell aides "very few people" knew that spokesman for the Nixon re-e- aides to Mitchell received the funds were used for intelthe Nixon campaign who was existence of a secret fund earindicted in the Watergate Fri- marked for sensitive political

On June 18, "when we read in the papers," said another The actual distribution of source, "we put two and two