

# GOP Gave Columnists Muskie Election Memo

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A former Nixon campaign official told Senate investigators yesterday that the President's re-election unit had received copies of documents taken from Sen. E. Muskie's presidential campaign and had turned them over to nationally syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak.

This marked the first time, beyond the original Watergate bugging arrests, that a Nixon campaign official has publicly told of the President's re-election committee making use of documents belonging to another candidate.

Herbert L. Porter, testifying before the Senate select committee on the Watergate, mentioned no other newsman as being the recipient of Muskie campaign documents in late 1971 and early 1972, but John J. Lind-

say, of Newsweek's Washington bureau, said yesterday that he also had received copies of documents from the Muskie campaign.

Both Novak and Lindsay said the documents had arrived in plain envelopes on two or three occasions, with no indication of the sender. Lindsay said the material obviously had come from the Republicans. Novak said the material "obviously was provided by someone within Sen. Muskie's campaign who did not have the best interests of Sen. Muskie at heart."

Porter yesterday did not name the source of the documents, which had been photographed from the originals. He said filmstrips containing copies of documents, as well as transcripts of the photographed documents,

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