

Kennedy Panel Charges Government Conducted Limited

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 — A Congressional subcommittee said today that the Federal Government had conducted only a limited investigation of evidence suggesting "a wide range of espionage and sabotage" in last year's political campaign.

The observation was made in a letter by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure. The panel began a study of the Watergate affair last fall.

The Congressional inquiry, expected to be significantly broader than the criminal trial that ended Tuesday, will be taken over and expanded by a committee under Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina.

A number of Congressional sources said in interviews today that while the Ervin investigation was still in its preliminary stages the hearings would go far beyond an inquiry on the break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Kennedy's remarks were in a letter summarizing the panel's work last year and proposing a budget for the coming year. The letter went to Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi, the Judiciary Committee chairman.

The Kennedy panel, an arm of the Judiciary Committee, said evidence it has gathered since October "strongly indicates that a wide range of espionage and sabotage activities did occur during the recent Presidential campaign."

The operations were "planned and initiated" no later than the middle of 1971, Senator Ken-

nedy said, and were concentrated during the primary contests conducted during the first half of 1972.

"One key participant was in repeated contact with the White House, the White House convention headquarters, and White House aides during relevant time periods," the subcommittee chairman charged.

Furthermore, Mr. Kennedy said, the panel's study indicates that "at least part of the financing was arranged through a key Republican fund-raiser who is a close associate of President Nixon's."

No names were mentioned in Senator Kennedy's letter, but it is understood the subcommittee has in part concentrated on the activities of Donald H. Segretti, a lawyer from Marina Del Ray, Calif.

A number of Mr. Segretti's acquaintances said last fall that he had offered them jobs as undercover operatives on the President's behalf. Mr. Segretti has refused to discuss the allegations.

White House Study

There were also reports during the waning stages of the campaign that Mr. Segretti had been paid, at least in part, by Herbert W. Kalmbach, a lawyer from Newport Beach, Calif., who has represented Mr. Nixon. "Neither the Federal criminal investigation nor the White House administrative inquiry included a substantial investigation of the alleged sabotage and espionage operations apart from those surrounding the Watergate episode itself," Mr. Kennedy said.

The White House study was conducted by John W. Dean 3d, counsel to the President. Mr. Nixon has said it cleared those still working for him, but the

study's contents have never been publicly disclosed.

Mr. Kennedy said that an unspecified number of Senate subpoenas had been served "to obtain records of various types," and these will presumably be turned over to Senator Ervin's investigators.

The North Carolinian, who has strong backing from the Democratic leadership, has indicated that he will summon various Presidential advisers for questioning on espionage operations when hearings begin.

He has also indicated an interest in the Government's prosecution of the men convicted in the break-in at Democratic headquarters, and several aides were reading transcripts of the recent trial today.

Mr. Ervin, who is chairman of the Government Operations Committee and the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, faces a series of important decisions before the inquiry can get under way in earnest. Among these, his aides said today, are the following:

¶The investigation could be carried out by either of his existing panels, but the Senator is understood to favor a special select committee of five or seven members with a staff drawn from various places.

¶Mr. Ervin is drafting a proposed Senate resolution that will be studied closely for its indications of how much power the investigators will have and of the dimensions of the inquiry.

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Bugging Investigation

¶The chairman must decide whether a special counsel, presumably a prominent and relatively nonpartisan lawyer, will be selected to head the investigation and, if so, who it will be.

¶The Senator must hire a staff of investigators, the size of which would depend in part on the information available from the Department of Justice and on the cooperation of proposed witnesses.

Presidential aides have invoked executive privilege in refusing to appear before congress, but Mr. Ervin has indicated a strong interest in limiting the scope of this doctrine.

The pace of the investigation also is in doubt. None of the Senator's staff expects hearings for at least six weeks, and most

estimates of the time required for a preliminary study ran to three months, six months and longer.

In a related development today, the Government asked Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the Federal District Court here to set bonds high enough to ensure the appearance for sentencing of the two men convicted in the Watergate trial Tuesday.

The two, G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr., have been held in jail since the guilty verdicts were returned. Judge Sirica, who has set \$100,000 surety bonds for others convicted in the case, did not rule on the two men's requests for lower amounts.

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