

Times Plans Effort To Quash Subpoena Served on Reporter

NYTimes MAR 1 1973

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, publisher of The New York Times, said yesterday that "all legal steps" would be taken to quash a subpoena issued by President Nixon's re-election committee for material on The Times's coverage of the bugging of the Democratic National Committee's headquarters.

The subpoena, issued to a Times reporter, John M. Crewdson, was one of a dozen served on reporters and news executives this week at The Washington Post, The Washington Star-News and Time magazine.

The subpoenas were issued on behalf of the Committee for the re-election of the President and several high-level Republicans who are involved in a series of civil lawsuits and countersuits. To help them make their case, the Republicans have demanded notes, films and other private material from newsmen.

In his statement, Mr. Sulzberger said:

"The subpoena served upon New York Times reporter John Crewdson in the civil cases relating to the Watergate incident violates the basic First Amendment rights of The Times, its reporters and the public. The Times will take all legal steps to have the subpoena quashed."

Spokesmen for the other publications said that their attorneys were still studying the matter and had not yet decided on a course of action. Under the subpoenas, the reporters and executives must appear and deliver their files next week.

The Republicans' lawyer, Kenneth Wells Parkinson, said his clients were most interested in allegedly libelous statements made about them by some Democrats. But he added that the subpoenas were broad enough to encompass material that could identify confidential sources used by newsmen in their investigations.

Among those subpoenaed were Katharine Graham, publisher of The Washington Post, and Howard Simons, The Post's managing editor. The Post had published articles linking the bugging and alleged sabotage to White House aides.