

WXPost JUN 6 1973

Nixon's Name Said Used In Bid to Block Wallace

ATLANTA, June 5 (AP) —The national Republican committeeman from Alabama represented himself as a personal emissary of President Nixon in an attempt to swing the 1970 governor's race against George C. Wallace, the Atlanta Constitution reported today.

James D. Martin of Gadsden, Ala., demanded that Wallace sign an agreement not to run in the 1972 presidential race, but Wallace refused, the paper said. Wallace went on to win the race for governor despite Martin's reported intervention.

Martin denied the charges.

Martin is a former congressman who gave up his seat to become the Republican nominee for governor in 1966. He was defeated by the late Gov. Lurleen Wallace, the governor's first wife.

The newspaper said Martin

attempted to intervene in the Democratic runoff between Wallace and incumbent Gov. Albert Brewer by getting the eliminated third-place candidate, Dothan millionaire Charles Woods, to denounce Wallace and endorse Brewer.

Martin assured Woods that such a move would stand him in great favor with President Nixon, the paper said, attributing its story to unidentified sources.

The newspaper said that to strengthen his position, Martin offered to call the President from Woods' Dothan office and that Martin said he could arrange for Woods to meet Mr. Nixon the following week when he was scheduled to visit the Key Biscayne retreat.

Martin today denied this saying that it was Woods who asked to meet with the President. Martin said he told Woods he couldn't arrange such a meeting.