


PARADE'S SPECIAL

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

BECAUSE OF VOLUME OF MAIL RECEIVED, PARADE REGRETS IT CANNOT ANSWER QUERIES.

WHY WATERGATE IS IMPORTANT

Last month, after polling the American public on its reaction to Watergate, the Gallup organization revealed the following:

(1) Two out of every three Americans believe that President Nixon was involved in the scandal to at least some degree.

(2) Approximately half the people polled (46 percent) dismiss the Watergate affair as "just politics--the kind of things that both parties engage in," although an increasing number believe it is a "very serious matter," indicative of corruption throughout the Nixon Administration.

The Watergate subversion was far more than "just politics." It was a sinister attempt by arrogant, unprincipled and ambitious men to destroy gradually the two-party system and the democratic processes as we have established them in this country over a period of almost 200 years.

One man who perceived

that drift very early in his investigation of Watergate was the junior U.S. Senator from Connecticut, a Republican, Lowell Weicker.

On the opening day of the Ervin committee hearings, Weicker tellingly described the Watergate participants as men "who almost stole America." And they almost did.

It was some of the President's most trusted aides who established a Department of Dirty Tricks. It was they who hired stupid lackeys, supervised by a former CIA agent of idiot morality, to burgle, break in and bug. It was they who taught clean-cut, handsome younger men to equate dissent with treachery, to despise the press, to treat the opposition party as "the enemy."

It was they who substituted hate and vindictiveness for competition and fair play in the 1972 Presidential campaign. To accuse one candidate of being a homosexual, to accuse another of consorting with a prostitute in

the back of a car, to steal mail, to compromise the FBI and the CIA, to besmirch the hard-earned reputations of such men as L. Patrick Gray and Richard Helms by pressuring them to commit or approve deeds of dubious legality--these are the tactics of a police state, and their practitioners are the possessors of a fascist mentality, whether they know it or not.

How much President Nixon had to do with all this--only he knows. What he is guilty of at least is incredibly poor personnel judgment. He surrounded himself in part with abrasive men of ill will, and they in turn, hired others in their own image.

Surely there is room in this country for honest dissent by men of honest conscience. There is no room in any American administration for a Department of Dirty Tricks. That bag belongs to political tyrants who have no faith in the values and traditions of the country they seek to subvert.