

McGovern Promises to Help Ford

By Jack Anderson

All but forgotten in the Watergate aftermath has been its chief victim, Sen. George McGovern, who was badly defeated after the dirtiest presidential campaign in American history.

Yet the South Dakota senator, betraying no bitterness, has written a stirring, private letter to the man who has now wound up in the White House in his place, without ever running for President.

The letter, intended for President Ford's eyes only, thanks him for his "constructive leadership" at this critical hour and declares eloquently: "No one can now fail to see what is right with America, even as we strive to repair what is wrong."

Although McGovern was the Democratic presidential candidate in 1972 and will oppose Mr. Ford's election in 1976, he wrote the new President on Aug. 30 to wish him well.

"No one who loves America has taken satisfaction from the crisis that put you in the nation's hardest job..." the letter allows. "But we can draw satisfaction from the underlying strength of our constitutional structure and the rule of law. For we have demonstrated that we take those principles seriously and that they can be made to work..."

"For despite the serious challenges we have to face, despite the honest differences we are bound to have, we have taken the first and greatest step toward recovery. Our confidence is returning."

Citing what is right with America, McGovern tells Mr. Ford warmly: "One thing that is right is your approach to the presidency. Above all else the country needed healing. You have understood that need and met it.

"The spirit of excessive partisanship is gone from the White House. Instead you have summoned a spirit of cooperation from Democrats and Republicans alike. Instead of 'enemies lists,' there is a list of domestic and foreign priorities we share together.

"And with the sense of common purpose you have inspired, we face them with renewed strength and resolution—as one united people once again. We can hammer out the answers on the basis of mutual respect, and with a common vision of America as a great and decent land."

McGovern goes on to praise his political adversary. "You have the opportunity and the capacity to be a great President," writes the senator. "You bring to the White House the same qualities of fundamental honesty and fairness those of us who served with you saw in Gerry Ford, our colleague in the House.

"As President Ford, you have called upon civility among politicians. That alone would be an historic achievement. Knowing you as I have, I see every chance for equal achievements in meeting the challenge of inflation and other challenges still unforeseen.

"For my part, you can be assured that I will give all the

help I can to a President doing all he can to find the best course for the country."

Illegal Letter?—Feisty, fiery Rep. Charles Sandman (R-N.J.), who kept the House impeachment hearing in turmoil with his outspoken defense of ex-President Nixon, apparently hasn't learned his Watergate lesson.

It is against the law for congressmen to use federal office space to solicit or receive "any contribution of money or other thing of value for any political purpose."

Yet Sandman utilized federal premises to print a two-page letter begging friends "to send \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5 or whatever you can afford" for his re-election campaign.

A spokesman for Sandman conceded that the letter was printed in the congressional storage room assigned to the congressman. The spokesman stressed that the printing press belonged to Sandman personally and that the paper was purchased with campaign funds.

However, the printing was done on federal property and the paper was purchased at reduced rates through the federally run House stationery store.

Footnote: A spot check determined that other congressmen carefully keep their fund-raising activities away from Capitol Hill to avoid violating the law.

Headlines and Footnotes—Attorney General William B. Saxbe has called for a crackdown on hardened criminals

who have learned how to cope with the courts and prisons to delay trials and land quick paroles. This gives them a maximum time on the streets where they terrorize law-abiding Americans. Saxbe wants the courts and parole boards to give first priority to keeping the "repeaters" off the streets... Ironically, the Republicans gerrymandered out of his seat, Rep. James Scheuer (D-N.Y.), the man whose legislation established an institute which helped develop many of the weapons to be used in Saxbe's crackdown on crime. These include cheap burglar alarms for mom-and-pop stores, tiny radio warning sets for bus drivers and non-lethal urber bullets and darts that police can use to stop criminals without killing them... Cuba's Fidel Castro has been reading Peter Benchley's best-seller, "Jaws," a novel about a small East Coast town that was terrorized by a white shark. The controversy among the town fathers over whether to close the beaches and risk losing the tourist trade pleased Castro's Marxist mind, according to sources who have talked to him... Friends of Richard Nixon are bitter against the former White House counsel, J. Fred Buzhardt, who is still advising him at San Clemente. The friends say Buzhardt gave him most of the bad advice that backfired during Mr. Nixon's last days in the White House. One Nixon Cabinet officer, who asked not to be identified, told us Buzhardt was a "bubblehead."