

Fails at Ford's HQ

Washington

An attempted burglary of President Ford's campaign headquarters early yesterday revived memories of the 1972 Watergate break-in at the Democratic National Committee, but Republicans brushed off the idea.

"It's the kind of thing that can happen at any office," Ford Committee Chairman Howard (Bo) Callaway said.

An alarm system went off at 2:51 a.m. when someone tampered with a door on the tenth floor of the downtown Washington office building at 1826 L street NW. The office was rented about a month ago to provide space for volunteer workers and for an advertising agency which will buy radio and television time for the Ford campaign.

Police found no suspects, only the partially removed wooden center strip that protected the lock on the double doors at the office entrance. James Cochran, administrative officer for the Ford committee, said he arrived at 3:30 a.m. to inspect the situation and found nothing in the office missing or disarranged.

"There is nothing sensitive in here," Cochran said. "It is just an advertising agency gearing up for action."

The agency, Campaign 76 Media Communications, Inc., headed by Peter Daley of Los Angeles, has barely started operations here, Cochran said. Although there were mimeographed

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mailing lists on a table used by volunteers, none of the material was confidential, according to Cochran.

Asked if he suspected an effort to "bug" the office, as in the Watergate break-in, Cochran said he assumed this would be checked and that further security steps would be taken.

Robert Visser, counsel for the committee who is responsible for security, recalled that the committee's office on the second floor of the building had experienced a burglary attempt in October.

"We were just setting up and there was no security at all," he recalled. "Somebody tried to jimmy open a filing cabinet where we kept our petty cash but the cabinet was not opened. There was no indication that it was political at all."

Visser said he was inclined to believe that the latest attempt was aimed more at theft of office equipment than espionage.