

PRO-NIXON DRIVE BY PHONES SEEN

Calls in Support of Move on
Cambodia Laid to G.O.P.

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WASHINGTON, May 7 —

Evidence mounted Thursday of a drive by Republicans urging telephone calls to the White House to express support for President Nixon's decision to expand the war into Cambodia.

Although official existence of such a drive was formally denied by the White House and the Republican National Committee, it was already generating a backlash.

Republican lawyers and businessmen in New York and Philadelphia, as well as staff aides to at least one Republican Senator, were phoning the White House to protest the Cambodian campaign. A Republican lawyer in New York said he was "outraged" that he had been called and urged to telephone the White House saying that he supported the President.

"It's stacking the deck, plain and simple," said the lawyer, who declined to be identified.

Concerned People

And William T. Coleman Jr., a prominent Republican lawyer in Philadelphia, who was named last year an alternate representative to the United Nations General Assembly, said he had called "concerned people" to urge them to phone the White House.

I feel the action of going into Cambodia was improper," Mr. Coleman said in a telephone interview. "If the White House wants an expression of how people feel, I think everybody should be entitled to an opinion."

Several sources said that Republicans had been asked to telephone their support of the President by calling (202) 456-2833, or, if that line was busy, to dial the White House switchboard, (202) 456-1414, and ask for Extension 2833.

When the number was dialed by one reporter, a woman answered saying: "This is the office of the President."

The woman declined to identify either herself or the name of her superior. "I cannot give you any information," she said.

"I can only take your opinion

on Cambodia. Are you for or against."

Herbert G. Klein, director of communications at the White House, said in a speech last Saturday that "telephone calls reaching White House switchboards are six to one in support of the President."

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, denied that the calls had been made at the direction of the White House. He said it was his understanding that advertisements had been run in some newspapers asking that calls be made.

Special facilities to handle the calls were set up in the Executive Office Building next to the White House and volunteers were recruited to answer the phones.

A spokesman for the Republican National Committee said, "we called 250 or 300 people asking them to watch the President's speech and express a response in some appropriate way." The speech on Cambodia was made last Thursday.

"But since those calls went out, we have not made a single call seeking support for the President," the spokesman added.

Calling 10 Friends

The spokesman said that the National Federation of Republican Women had been asked to telephone 10 friends and ask them to "express a response to the White House, but it was not a chain process and this was the only group involved."

Reports from several sources, however, said that Republicans in various parts of the East Coast had been asked to telephone the White House to say that they supported the President.

Aides in the office of Senator Charles E. Goodell, Republican of New York, said staff members had been calling the special White House telephone number to express their disapproval of the Cambodian involvement. The aides emphasize that they were making the calls as private citizens, not as members of the Senator's staff.