

SFE Examiner

McG's 'Scandal a Day'

SEP 14 1972

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WASHINGTON — George McGovern is using Congress, the courts and every political weapon at his command to unearth a "scandal" a day in the Nixon Administration until the Nov. 7 election.

Today, a Democratic congressional committee airs windfall profits of grain speculators who, McGovern alleges, had inside information about Soviet purchases of 400 million bushels this year.

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz is the main witness in defense of the President.

Tomorrow, more accusations that former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans was involved in financing undercover GOP raids on McGovern's campaign headquarters are expected.

Fund Probe

By the weekend, McGovern strategists hope to tie Nixon's San Diego patron, C. Arnholt Smith, to an investigation, squelched by Nixon

appointees, into a scheme for channeling illegal dollars to political candidates.

McGovern lawyers may send more friends of Ralph Nader into court next week to help challenge a 1971 increase in government price supports of milk allegedly linked to \$322,500 dairy farmers contributed toward Nixon's re-election.

One obvious aim is to bait the President into a head-on clash with McGovern over Nixon's purity in high office.

That is a McGovern issue, not one of Richard Nixon's choosing.

In making an issue of distrusting Nixon, McGovern is adopting a tactic one of the President's closest political advisers — Murray Chotiner — recommended.

"A fatal mistake . . . is attacking your opponent's strength," Chotiner advised Republican state chairmen at a secret GOP strategy session.

"Instead stick . . . to attacking . . . weakness."

McGovern has avoided the perhaps "fatal mistake" of criticizing Nixon's troop withdrawals from Vietnam and he pulls his punches on the President's anti-inflation policies.

On these aspects of the war and the economy Nixon is strong in the polls.

Wheat Deal

Instead, his strategists say McGovern will turn increasingly in the coming weeks to incidents he believes will establish a pattern of corruption at the White House too damaging for Nixon to ignore.

Some, like the wheat deal, will balloon with only an initial burst of hot charges from McGovern, the tacticians expect.

For Butz came out of the Agriculture Department snarling that McGovern was "wrong, as usual" immediately after the wheat deal was made a campaign issue.

His outrage may trap him in a "running debate with the opposition," another fatal error, according to Chotiner.

Nixon, so far, has chosen to ignore the mounting charges of public favors to his contributors, business breaks for his friends and the use of government of-

tices for private profit.

Waiting Policy

The President, if he still listens to Chotiner, will wait a while longer.

"What do we do when the opposition smears us?"

Chotiner answered this question two decades ago for Nixon like this:

"Well, you don't answer anything until you are convinced that the opposition has run its full course . . . but if you find that the attack has reached such proportions that it can no longer be avoided in any way whatsoever, when you do answer it, do so with an attack of your own against the opponent for having launched it in the first place.

" . . . And then once the answer is made . . . never to answer it again."

McGovern has enough ammunition to last until Election Day.