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O'Brien's Comments on Nixon Visit

Lawrence O'Brien, campaign director for Senator George S. McGovern, held a cross-country telephone news conference yesterday to offer a Democratic analysis of President Nixon's appearance in San Francisco.

The conversation on O'Brien's conference call to Bay Area newspapers and radio stations promptly took a thoroughly partisan tone.

"While Mr. Nixon is campaigning in California he needn't worry about who's minding the political store back in Washington — or who's paying the bill," O'Brien said.

O'Brien protested that millions of senior citizens who will get higher Social Security payments starting October 1 are receiving pamphlets, illustrated with the President's picture, to give them the good news.

CONGRESS

"There is no indication that the increases were passed by a Democratic Congress over the vigorous objections of Mr. Nixon," O'Brien added.

During the phone conversation, a reporter asked O'Brien if he thought it was fair for him to be protesting that Mr. Nixon was in California while Senator McGovern was complaining that the President stayed in the White House instead of hitting the campaign trail.

"Occasionally Mr. Nixon goes out on fat cat fund-raising exercises," O'Brien replied. "I should hope he would meet face - to - face with Senator McGovern."

DENIAL

Following the conference call, a spokesman in the Bay Area Nixon headquarters denied that it was improper for Mr. Nixon's name and picture to be used on announcements to senior citizens:

"It would have been partisan to talk about a Democratic Congress or about the politics involved in enacting the legislation," the spokesman said, using much the same tone Republican officials had employed earlier when the accusations were first made.

The Republican spokesman said he regarded it as legitimate for the President to inform senior citizens of actions by their government.