

Past Scandals 'Child's Play'

McGovern Escalates White House Corruption Issue

NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. George McGovern is escalating allegations of White House corruption, saying government scandals of the past were "child's play compared to what's going on in this administration."

The Democratic presidential nominee evidently has decided to make that a major theme in what he said will be an all-out campaign against President Nixon during the five weeks until election day.

McGovern is campaigning today in New York and Boston after asserting that, while the President talks of law and order, "I submit (that) the permissiveness toward a breakdown of high moral standards in this country begins right with Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew."

McGovern pressed that as his issue Monday in Washington, Lyndhurst, N.J., and at a \$500-a-plate campaign fund-raising dinner at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

"The Nixon administration is the most morally bankrupt administration in the entire history of our country," he told the fund-raising-dinner crowd estimated at more than 1,000 Monday night. He also said it is the worst administration.

"At no time in the history of our land has corruption been so deep, so pervasive as it is today

"The influence of big money is corrupting the integrity of government on a scale never seen before," McGovern said. The chief communitarian of

McGovern's corruption charges are those he has been raising for weeks—the Justice Department settlement of the International Telephone & Telegraph antitrust case; "this smelly wheat deal" with the Soviet Union, and campaign contributions to Nixon from anonymous donors, which the Democratic candidate said may total \$20 million.

Gary Hart, McGovern's campaign manager, has maintained that the issue of alleged Republican corruption and big-business favoritism would be crucial and perhaps decisive to the Democratic campaigner.

Off on a seven-state campaign swing after a break and strategy talks in Washington, McGovern stuck with the issue.

He said Nixon presides over "the most corrupt administration in the history of this country

"Lesser scandals than ITT or the wheat deal shook previous administrations to their very roots," McGovern said.

He said the cases of Harry Vaughan, "hounded out of the White House because he accepted a \$200 deepfreeze," and Sherman Adams, ousted "in disgrace because he accepted a vicuna coat," were as child's play by comparison.

McGovern said that, in the ITT affair, "all of a sudden \$400,000 in campaign funds is shipped to the Republican National Convention and the antitrust suit is quietly dropped, a billion-dollar case.

and Sherman Adams look like Sunday school students," McGovern said.

He accused the administration of corrupting the political process with "the politics of principles "in an unjust war," evasion."