

The Big Campaign To Praise Nixon

SFChronicle

Washington

President Nixon's re-election committee financed an elaborate campaign last May to give a distorted view of the American public's response to the mining of Haiphong harbor, it has been learned.

The campaign included paying for telegrams to be sent to the White House and the placing of a deceptive \$4400 ad in the New York Times on May 17.

On May 10, White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that telegrams, letters and telephone calls were running 5 or 6 to 1 in support of the President's action and cited them as an indication of "substantial support" of the mining in Congress and among voters.

One former Nixon campaign official said yesterday that the Committee for the Re-Election of the President was "totally mobilized for the biggest piece of deception—we never do anything honestly. Imagine, the president sending himself telegrams, patting himself on the back."

Another former Nixon campaign official told a reporter yesterday that the Haiphong mining campaign "put the entire staff in overdrive for two weeks . . . The work included petition drives, organizing rallies, bringing people in buses to Washington, organizing calls

to the White House, getting voters to call their Congressmen."

"We felt the Haiphong decision could make or break the president," the official said.

The ad in the New York Times, entitled "The people vs. the New York Times," criticized a Times' editorial opposing the mining. The ad was signed by ten people and gave the appearance of representing citizen support of the President.

However, Phillip Joanou, the former executive who handled the Nixon committee's advertising, said yesterday that the ad was paid for with 44 \$100 bills sent from the Nixon committee in Washington.

At least \$8400 in cash campaign funds, mostly in \$100 bills, was spent on the drive, the Washington Post has learned. This expenditure has not been reported to the General Accounting Office as required by law.

The expenditures were authorized by Jeb Stewart MaGruder, who was deputy Nixon campaign manager under John N. Mitchell at the time, according to government sources. MaGruder reportedly has told prosecutors that he, along with former Attorney General Mitchell and presidential counsel John W. Dean III, had approved the bugging of the Democrats' Watergate headquarters.

Washington Post Service