

Herbert Kalmbach: Counselor-at-Law

By Michael Kernan

The mother of Herbert Warren Kalmbach said yesterday when reached by phone at her Newport Beach, Calif., home that she knew nothing about him.

"How about his war record?" the mother of the top Nixon associate linked to a secret GOP "intelligence-gathering" fund, was asked. "Or his school days or childhood?"

"I'm sorry, I just don't know about that. You'll have to talk to his wife."

The most exciting thing that came up in three days of intensive investigation of Kalmbach's background is that he drove Martha Mitchell to the hospital last June after her encounter with a bodyguard.

Kalmbach, often referred to as Mr. Nixon's personal attorney, arranged the purchase of the San Clemente estate three years ago. It was a good arrangement: According to the White House, the Nixons got the use of a 21-acre estate while paying for just five acres. Their price was announced as \$340,000 for their portion of the \$1.4-million estate with "no payment immediately due on the balance."

It is characteristic of Kalmbach that the President's

name appears nowhere in the 14-page realty document. Neither does Kalmbach's.

The 50-year-old California attorney is secretary of the Nixon Foundation, which his firm represents, and Orange County director of the little-known Lincoln Club made up of California millionaires whose boast is that their money and influence not only launched the Nixon political career but put him in the White House.

According to one report, the 124-member club is controlled by an inner circle of Mr. Nixon's personal friends who sit as directors. Members are pledged not to discuss the organization outside, and most of them know almost nothing about its methods of selecting candidates or distributing funds.

Kalmbach has been identified by sources in the Washington buging probe as one of five paymasters for the Nixon campaign's secret intelligence fund. As fundraiser extraordinary, he has reportedly flown around the country and to Europe to collect party contributions from ambassadors and financiers.

Often seen at luncheon with F. Donald Nixon, the President's brother, at a Newport Beach restaurant called The Quiet Woman, Kalmbach can trace his friend-

ship with the President to a longtime association with Robert H. Finch, the Presidential adviser. Kalmbach and Finch were classmates (1949) at the University of Southern California.

A native of Port Huron, Mich., Kalmbach served as an aviator in the U.S. Navy during World War II, according to USC records, emerging in 1947 as a lieutenant (jg.) in the Naval Reserve. He served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

At USC, he took a BS in business in 1949, a BA in prelaw and an LLB in 1951. His entry in Who's Who in America also lists a doctorate of jurisprudence awarded in 1951. A member of the social fraternity Delta Tau Delta and the law fraternity Phi Delta Phi, he was student body vice president at law school.

At first his career seems to have been modest, a law practice in Newport Beach concentrating on title insurance and real estate. He became state co-chairman of the state Junior Bar Association and held vice presidencies of various title insurance and realty firms. In the '60s, Kalmbach drifted into Nixonian politics.

See KALMBACH, C8, Col. 1



Time Magazine photo

Herbert Warren Kalmbach (LLB '51), secretary of the Nixon Foundation.

KALMBACH, From C1

After heading the Orange County campaign in Finch's successful race for California lieutenant governor in 1966, Kalmbach moved on to serve under Maurice H. Stans as associate finance chairman of the 1968 Nixon for President campaign,

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working out of the Park Avenue headquarters in New York.

(Stans is now Nixon's chief re-election fund-raiser. Federal investigators have said that it was from a safe in Stan's Washington office that a fund fluctuating from \$350,000 to \$700,000 was dispensed during the current campaign. The fund was uncovered by the Government Accounting Office. Investigators said it was used for a variety of purposes, including that of undercover work against the Democrats.)

After 1968, a rapid change came over the law firm of Kalmbach, DeMarco, Knapp & Chillingworth. It began to move up, literally: First, from eighth-floor offices in Century City to the 19th floor of a downtown Los Angeles business center and last year to the entire 44th floor, close to the penthouse, of the city's newest skyscraper. The seaside Newport Beach offices are still used, too.

The customer list has also changed. In 1968, it featured Stans' brokerage house in New York, the local Newport National Bank, Pacific Lighting and Atlantic Rich-resents such firms as United

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field. Today, Kalmbach represents Air Lines, Marriott Corp., Travelers Insurance, Dart Industries (owner of Rexall), the entertainment giant MCA, and the Richard Nixon Foundation. Last year Kalmbach founded the Bank of Newport.

One Republican observer called the Kalmbach career "meteoric."

Sandy-haired, gray-eyed, impeccably dressed, Herbert Kalmbach is a man of such low profile that even his friends don't seem to know much about him.

"He just doesn't talk to

the press, period," commented one veteran Los Angeles newsman who lives near the Kalmbach home on Santiago Drive in Newport Beach. The neighborhood consists of comfortable but unostentatious houses in the \$85,000-\$1000,000 range on a bluff facing away from the bay.

"Herb always remained in the background," said William King, a former Nixon finance chieftain who later left the GOP. "In the early '60s, he was with Republican Associates, a group that researched issues and raised some money. It was headed by Bob Finch. After Herb took that year off to be deputy to Stans, his business has zoomed up. He moves easily in a group; he's attractive but I wouldn't say handsome. Very efficient, charming, always unruffled. Never gets in anyone's way. He's active in the L.A. Country Club and California Club, I think."

As for the GOP intelligence gathering operation, King said only, "I thought he was a little smarter than that. As a lawyer, he has no professional reputation. I mean, he isn't especially known for his practice of

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law. He's almost colorless, I would say, and I've flown to Washington with him a few times. I don't know anything that's human (that is, of human interest) about him"

The only recent public glimpse of Herbert Kalmbach in some sort of human interaction—the Martha Mitchell incident of last June—shows coolness and resourcefulness. After Mrs. Mitchell, wife of the then-Attorney General, said she had been roughed up by former bodyguard Steve King while trying to phone a reporter, had been cut badly on the left hand and held down for an injection of tranquilizer, Kalmbach was summoned to quiet her.

She refused to see the doctor who had given the injection; another doctor, a friend of Kalmbach's, claimed he was not qualified to suture the cut. So, Kalmbach himself took her to a Newport Beach hospital emergency room where the cut was finally treated.

Forrest N. Shumway, president of Signal Oil, called Kalmbach "a hell of a nice guy. Unflappable, exceedingly pleasant. But I don't know him that well. I see him at cocktail parties. Yes, he takes an occasional drink." It was aboard Shumway's yacht that Rep. Paul M. McCloskey was introduced to Kalmbach shortly after McCloskey had indicated he would oppose Mr.

Nixon for the 1972 nomination.

"I think the idea was to try and see if I could be brought back into the fold," McCloskey said. "We had a brief, friendly talk, but that was all."

Another acquaintance, J. Robert Fluor of the State Horse Racing Commission, a Lincoln Club leader, was asked about Kalmbach's reputation as a "good judge of horseflesh."

"I know him very very casually. If he's in racing, I'm not aware of it. I don't think I've ever seen him at

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the race track."

Since the homes on Santiago Drive are not on lots big enough to permit keeping horses, it was to be assumed that Kalmbach did his riding at stables.

A reporter visited the white brick, one-story Kalmbach house and found it apparently vacant yesterday. Neighbors contributed the information that the family has two Cadillacs, a Porsche which belongs to Kurt, the elder son and a Volkswagen which belongs to the other son. There are also two dogs, evidently dachshunds, in the menage.

One neighbor, George C. Scott (no relation to the actor) said Kalmbach is an avid golfer and once headed the homeowners' association of the area, known as Dover Shores. Scott said Mrs. Kalmbach recently identified a manx cat that had been adopted by the Scott family as one belonging to Robert Finch. The cat had been accidentally locked in the hood of the Finch car and had bolted when the hood was lifted.

Kalmbach's secretary relayed word late yesterday that her employer "didn't want to be rude," but did not feel he could talk to a reporter.

In his polite, soft-spoken way, Kalmbach has closed off all contact between the press and his family. His wife, the former Barbara Forbush, whom he married June 12, 1948, did not answer the home phone for three days. Neither did his oldest son, Kurt Warren, a 1967 graduate of USC who lives on Balboa Island. There are two other children, Lauren Ann and Kenneth Malen (students at USC), and a brother, John.

Yesterday this interchange took place when a reporter got Kalmbach's home phone to answer after 15 rings:

Reporter: Mrs. Kalmbach?"

Answer: "Yes . . ."

Reporter: My name is Judith Martin with The Washington Post . . ."

Answer: "Well, this is not Mrs. Kalmbach."

Reporter: "Whom am I speaking to?"

Answer: "Oh, I work for them. They're away . . ."

Reporter: "All right. What is your name please?"

Answer: "I don't think you need my name. Good bye."

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