

Reagan Hires Former Nixon 'Spy'

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Ronald Reagan has signed on a key member of a Nixon campaign "spy" team, Kenneth Rietz, and assigned him a major role in his campaign.

During the 1972 campaign, Rietz ran a junior Watergate operation. He formed a network of young spies and dirty tricksters who came to be called the "Kiddie Corps."

One of his undercover operatives, a George Washington University student, was paid \$150 a week to infiltrate a peace vigil at the White House and set up the demonstrators for arrest on drug charges.

Rietz also directed the colorful John (Fat Jack) Buckley, who planted a spy in the headquarters of Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine). For \$1,000 a month, the spy slipped folders full of intra-office memos to Buckley, who photographed them and delivered the film strips to Rietz.

Like a couple of characters in a spy thriller, Rietz and Fat Jack would meet on street corners near the White House to transfer the clandestine negatives. This was how President Nixon kept tabs on the man who was then considered the most likely Democratic rival.

Nixon's righthand man, H.R. Haldeman, was so pleased with the results that he began grooming Rietz to be the next Republican national chairman. Rietz actually was preparing to take charge of the 1974 Republican congressional cam-

paign when his spy activities hit the headlines. He resigned under fire.

Now Reagan has brought him back into politics. At age 34, Rietz is a shrewd political operator, who handles special events for the Reagan campaign and is also Reagan's chief organizer in California. In fact, Rietz' home is the temporary Reagan headquarters in the state.

Footnote: Reagan's press adviser, the able, affable Lyn Nofziger, also has a slight Watergate-type aroma. In 1972, he slipped \$10,000 of Nixon's ill-gotten campaign cash to a political promoter who used the money to hire members of the American Nazi Party to woo George Wallace supporters into the Nixon camp.

Tapped Telephones—The secret files of federal snoops are weighted down with telephone logs of tapped conversations.

For the enlightenment of the taxpayers who have shelled out millions for all this wiretapping, we have obtained a typical telephone log from the locked files. This should give the taxpayers a pretty good idea of the trivia they're paying for.

We won't identify the wiretap victim, out of respect for his privacy, except to say that he was suspected some time ago of leaking Pentagon information to Washington's eminent private eye, Richard Bast.

The log opens with this dramatic revelation: "Subject's wife calls Goodwill agency." Not long afterward, the wife is back again on the telephone to speak "with a Mr. Groves about renewing their lease."

The high point of the day for the Army eavesdropper came when "subject calls wife. Talk about going out to movies and money matters." This was followed, according to the carefully classified log, by a call from the wife "for babysitter to next door neighbor."

Next morning, a friend "wants a ride to work" but "subject's wife ... tells him subject will be a little late. He overslept." After the subject departed belatedly for his Pentagon office, the wife called a friend named Joan to "talk about kids, Joan's upcoming trip to Munich."

Mindlessly recording every conversation, the wiretap informed the Army that "unknown woman calls for subject's wife. Child answers phone. Mother not in. Woman will call back." In the meantime, the log reports: "Weather forecast dialed."

The most sinister information that was collected from a week of monitored telephone calls was that the household received a "call from ... magazine saleswoman" and that the householder's friend finally talked him into providing a ride to work.

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