

Republicans Edgy Over Demo Spy Raid 'Bomb'

By Harry Kelly

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MIAMI BEACH — Some nervous Republicans are whispering fears that the spy raid on the Democratic National Headquarters is a political time bomb and worry about when it might blow up.

And George McGovern, fretting over the lack of "a national outcry" over the links between the break-in and President Nixon's campaign committee, is trying to elevate it into a major issue.

Accelerating the campaign rhetoric, McGovern charges the President is "at least indirectly" responsible for the break-in and questions whether former Attorney General John Mitchell resigned as Nixon's campaign manager because of some involvement in the "Watergate Caper."

Sharp Denials

Both insinuations were sharply denied by Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, when he came to Miami yesterday.

"I am fully satisfied from an investigation directed by

Mitchell that no one in the White House or on the committee in any position of responsibility had any knowledge of or gave any sanction to the so-called Watergate Caper," said MacGregor, once a Congressman from Minnesota.

Mitchell's private findings, a Government Accounting Office report in a week and a grand jury probe due to be finished in four weeks, MacGregor said, will disconnect Nixon from the episode.

Fear Indictments

"Look," said a GOP state official, "the President can't be involved in this kind of thing. But what happens if it keeps dragging on the way it is, with the newspapers picking at it, and McGovern talking it up, and then a few days before the election the grand jury springs a bunch of indictments? It could mean something in a close election."

At a closed meeting with GOP state chairmen, Republican National Chairman Robert Dole asked whether the wiretapping of the Democratic headquarters was

having an impact in their states.

A half dozen Republican officials, according to witnesses, spoke up and said it was having an impact while others nodded their heads in agreement.

Dole reportedly responded "something has to be done and done soon . . . if there is anything that's going to come out, it ought to come out now and not on the 28th of October."

While campaigning, McGovern has mentioned the Watergate break-in at practically every stop.

But at a news conference at Youngstown, Ohio, he voiced frustration about "why the press and the American people haven't been in an uproar."

To support his charge that the President is at least indirectly responsible for the raid, McGovern cites as evidence the case of the \$25,000 check contributed to the Committee for the Re-election of the President but located in the bank account of one of the five men arrested for the break-in.

Close to Nixon

"I think that when the Committee to Re-elect the President gives a check for \$25,000 to one of these invaders caught red-handed inside

the Democratic National headquarters, holding all this sophisticated eavesdropping equipment, that's about as close as you can get to the Nixon campaign management," he said.

McGovern went on to point out that at the time of the raid on the Democrats the former attorney general was chairman of Nixon's campaign committee, adding:

"He rather abruptly left that job supposedly at the request of Martha Mitchell. But I think it is at least an open question at this point as to why Mr. Mitchell departed so abruptly after the Watergate Five were caught red-handed by the police inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters."