

O'Brien Target

Demo Break-in-- GOP Sues Back

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Washington

President Nixon's campaign managers filed a \$2.5 million counter lawsuit against Democrat Lawrence F. O'Brien yesterday, charging that his \$1 million Watergate damage suit was a "malicious abuse of federal court process."

"If their tactics are allowed to continue, they will succeed in turning McGovernism into a synonym for McCarthyism," said Clark McGregor, the President's campaign director, in announcing the GOP legal action.

The civil suit charges that O'Brien, former Democratic national chairman who is a top figure in Senator George S. McGovern's presidential campaign, had perverted federal court procedures "into an instrument for creating political headlines" and imposing "guilt by association" on innocent Republicans.

O'Brien also was charged with "conducting a private inquisition" into the June 17 break-in at Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate apartment complex at the same time the incident is being investigated by a federal grand jury.

The suit was filed by Francis L. Dale, chairman

of the Committee for Re-election of the President, and Maurice H. Stans, the President's campaign finance chairman who was the key figure in an expanding House Banking Committee investigation of Nixon campaign contributions.

Representative Wright Patman (Dem-Tex.), the committee chairman, said he will seek to subpoena Stans and John N. Mitchell, who was MacGregor's predecessor, for questioning about what Patman termed a deliberate concealment of possibly illegal contributions channeled through Mexican banks.

Stans dismissed the Patman committee staff allegations as "politically motivated" lies.

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