

Paper Says GOP Destroyed Records

WASHINGTON — (AP)—at Democratic offices on June 17, according to sources quoted today in the Washington Post. Two top campaign officials, Robert C. Mardian

and Frederick La Rue, directed a massive "house-cleaning" including the destruction of records pertinent to the case, the newspaper quoted sources as saying.

Mardian was an assistant attorney general before joining President Nixon's campaign committee as political coordinator. La Rue was a White House counsel to the President until he became special assistant to the director of the campaign committee.

'Misinformation'

A campaign committee spokesman described the Post's sources as "a fountain of misinformation" and would not comment further on the report, the newspaper said.

The Post said its sources reported that former campaign chairman John N. Mitchell instructed Mardian and La Rue to take charge of developing the committee's response to the bugging incident. In addition to the destruction of records, the Post said, the two also prompted staff meetings at which campaign committee employees were told emphatically not to talk about the incident with newsmen.

'Destroyed Records'

The Post said the destroyed records included:

- Memos describing wire-tapped conversations of Democratic party officials at the Westgate.

- A list showing that three Nixon campaign officials withdrew some \$300,000 from the special fund designated for intelligence-gathering on the Democrats. The Post identified the three — all former White House aides — as G. Gordon Liddy, Herbert L. Porter, scheduling director for the campaign, and Jet Stuart Magruder, campaign deputy director.

- As many as seven ledg-

er books listing those who contributed to the Nixon campaign prior to April 7 when a new law took effect requiring disclosure of the names of contributors and the amount they give. The Nixon campaign has refused to disclose those who helped amass a \$10 million kitty prior to that date.

Before FBI

The Post quoted sources as saying the records were destroyed before FBI agents appeared at the Republican headquarters during their investigation of the bugging.

"Mardian and La Rue went looking around for information that might be incriminating," the Post quoted one source as saying.

All seven men indicted in connection with the break-in Democratic headquarters were freed yesterday on \$10,000 bond pending their trial which could begin before election day.

Among them were former White House consultants Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., both of whom pleaded innocent to charges of conspiring to gain information from Democratic headquarters through illegal wiretaps and electronic surveillance.

Kleindienst

U.S. Dist. Judge John Sirica ordered pre-trial briefs filed within 15 days. Meanwhile in New York, Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst said last night he believes "the seven persons indicted by the grand jury gave the orders" for the break-in and bugging at Democratic headquarters.

He said the Justice Department investigation turned up no evidence implicating higher officials in the Republican campaign or the Nixon Administration.

Kleindienst appeared on ABC-TV's Dick Cavett Show.

Agnew Speculation

And in Milwaukee, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew speculated — and admitted he had no evidence — that the break-in was set up to embarrass the Republican Party.

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray said in Memphis, Tenn., that the agency's probe of the Watergate case has been one of its most detailed investigations ever.

Stans Defendant In Demo Bugging

WASHINGTON — (AP)— U.S. District Judge Charles Richey permitted the Democrats today to name Maurice Stans, chief political fund-raiser for President Nixon, as a defendant in their \$3 million civil damage suit.

The suit was filed as an aftermath to the June 17 break-in at Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate hotel.

Richey's order, permitting the Democrats to press the suit, dismissed the five men arrested in the party's headquarters and McCord Associates, Inc., as defendants in the case.

Amended Complaint

But the judge accepted an amended complaint filed by the Democrats adding defendants not previously named, including Stans, the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President; Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, and former White House consultants G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Republicans had sought to have the damage suit dismissed.

In his order, Judge Richey explained he accepted the amended complaint in an effort to speed up the trial, which possibly could begin before the November election.

In the suit, former Demo-

cratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien accused Stans of financing the break-in and the bugging of the Democratic headquarters. Stans has denied the accusations.

O'Brien brought the suit on behalf of all registered Democrats.

But Richey ordered that the suit could be brought only on behalf of those people who engaged in speech or communicated with the Democratic National Committee from the period of March 1 through June 17.

Criminal Indictments

Liddy and Hunt were indicted by a federal grand jury along with the five men arrested in the headquarters on criminal charges stemming from the break-in and bugging.

Richey has ordered attorneys for both sides to meet tomorrow with him to better facilitate the taking of depositions.

The five defendants who were dismissed from the civil action were Bernard Barker, Virgilio Gonzalez, Frank Sturgis, James McCord and Eugenio Martinez.

The damage suit brought by O'Brien is one of three separate suits now pending before Richey.

Stans has filed a \$5 million countersuit against O'Brien and a \$5 million libel suit against the former chairman of the Democratic National Party.