

Not in this edition: paragraphs marked in final edition

# Mitchell Controlled Secret GOP Fund

*Early*

John V. Mitchell personally controlled the Republican fund to secure the Election of 1972, a Post has learned. Beginning in the 1971, almost a year before the election, Mitchell became the campaign manager for the GOP. Mitchell personally controlled the fund, a source in the White House said yesterday. Two of them were identified as former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, now finance chairman of the President's campaign, and Jeb Stuart Magruder, manager of the Nixon campaign before Mitchell took over and now a deputy director of the campaign. The other two are a high White House official now involved in the campaign and a campaign aide outside of Washington.

The sources of The Post's information on the secret fund and its relationship to Mitchell and other campaign officials include law enforcement officers and persons on the staff of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Asked to comment on the Post report, a spokesman for President Nixon's re-election committee, Powell Moore, said: "I think your sources are bad; they're providing misinformation. We're not going to comment beyond that."

Asked if the committee was therefore denying the contents of the story, Moore responded: "We're just not going to comment."

According to The Post's sources, the federal grand jury that investigated the alleged bugging of the Democrats

Watergate headquarters did not establish that the intelligence fund was a secret fund. See MITCHELL, A13, Col. 1.

MITCHELL, from all sources, has been established as the only person who had access to the secret fund. Mitchell received about 15 percent of the money received by the fund, which was destroyed by a campaign

official after the June 17 break-in at the Watergate. It has been established, however, that Mitchell, the former Nixon campaign manager, was one of the persons indicted in the Watergate case. Mitchell was indicted in the Watergate case, along with several other persons, from the Watergate case.

The sources of The Post's information on the secret fund and its relationship to Mitchell and other campaign officials include law enforcement officers and persons on the staff of the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Mitchell served as the President's campaign manager for three months and is charged with a crime for his role in the Watergate case.

The former secretary general has repeatedly denied that his resignation was related in any way to the Watergate bugging, or that he had any knowledge of it.

When asked whether he would be held for an indictment attorney general to control disbursements from a political campaign fund, one federal attorney involved in the Watergate case said yesterday: "I don't know. There's a question."

A spokesman for the Justice Department said there is no law prohibiting the political activity of a member of the President's cabinet.

Last month, the existence of the secret fund was cited as a possible and apparent violation of a new, stricter campaign finance disclosure law. The report by the General Accounting Office, which is investigating the matter, was made public last month.

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JOHN MITCHELL personally involved

...ance-raising operations against the Democrats. It could not be determined yesterday exactly what individual projects were funded by the secret account.

But sources said FBI agents uncovered several in the course of their Watergate investigation. Those projects were described by one source as "not necessarily illegal," although "definitely very embarrassing if anybody found out they were."

In addition, the sources said, a small amount of money from the fund was used by several persons for nonintelligence activities—usually because the money in Stans' safe represented quickly obtainable cash for travel.