

Nixon Campaign Aide Said To Get Private U.S. Data

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By NICHOLAS GAGE OCT 13 1972
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—Former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian obtained confidential information from the Justice Department for potential use in President Nixon's political campaign after leaving the Government to work for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, according to sources close to the Watergate investigation.

On at least one occasion, the sources said, Mr. Mardian sent two men, later indicted in the Watergate affair, to pick up information from the department, where Mr. Mardian had been head of the Internal Security Division.

Mr. Mardian said today through a spokesman that he consulted the Justice Department after leaving it only for information about possible civil disturbances at the Miami Beach Republican convention. "This type of information was available to both parties," he said.

Visited Watergate Earlier

Mr. Mardian denied ever sending any of the men involved in the Watergate affair to the department to get information.

The sources said that no evidence had been found to show that Mr. Mardian or anyone beyond the seven men indicted in the Watergate affair had had any advance knowledge of it.

The men who broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex last June 17 also went there on other occasions, the sources said, and some intelligence gathered on those trips was incorporated into written reports to high officials

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of the re-election committee, including its former chairman, John N. Mitchell. But the reports did not give the source of the information.

Efforts to reach Mr. Mitchell today were unsuccessful.

No evidence has been found, either, that the seven men informed anyone on the committee orally about their intelligence-gathering activities at the Watergate, the sources

said.

Although committee money was used to finance the Watergate operation, evidence gathered thus far indicates that G. Gordon Liddy, the committee's former finance counsel, who is one of the seven men indicted in the case, arranged for the money on his own.

The \$350,000 that was later disclosed to have been in the safe of Maurice H. Stans, President Nixon's chief fund-raiser, at the time of the Watergate operation was there for reasons that were not connected with the operation, the sources said.

They would not disclose the reasons but said that details about the money would come out at the trial of the seven

men and "will surprise some people."

Some of the information collected in the investigation of the case, according to one of those who took part in the inquiry, dealt with the relationship of Mr. Mardian to men involved in the Watergate affair.

While an assistant attorney general, Mr. Mardian served as the liaison in the Justice Department for an intelligence team formed by White House aides last year. The group was put together to plug up leaks to the press after the publication in The New York Times of details concerning the talks on limiting nuclear armaments between the United States and Soviet Union.

The group included Mr. Liddy, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, and E. Howard Hunt, a former Central Intelligence Agency operative and part-time pulp novelist. Both Mr. Liddy and Mr. Hunt are among the seven persons indicted in the break-in.

According to sources close to the case, Mr. Liddy and Mr. Hunt would go to Mr. Mardian when the intelligence group needed information from the Justice Department or wanted an agency of the department to investigate a particular matter.

Last December, Mr. Liddy

moved from the White House intelligence group to the President's re-election committee as financial counsel and continued to call Mr. Mardian for information, the sources said.

Last spring, when Mr. Mardian also joined the committee, he began to make calls to the Justice Department asking former associates for information, they said.

The sources did not say what the information he wanted dealt with but said that most of it was in the department's confidential files.

On at least one occasion, Mr. Mardian sent Mr. Liddy and Mr. Hunt to a former associate in the department to pick up information, the sources said.

They said that the investigation into the Watergate affair both by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's office here had been exhaustive, despite reports to the contrary.

Three Aides Are Democrats

They said that all three of the Assistant United States Attorneys who had worked on the case were Democrats.

Earl J. Silbert, who is in charge of the case, was brought into the Government in 1960 and has worked under both Democrats and Republicans. He stayed in the Justice Department as a lawyer until 1964,

when he moved to the United States Attorney's office here, assisting Mr. Silbert, served as a lawyer in the organized crime and racketeering section of the Justice Department for four years before joining the United States Attorney's Office. He is described by acquaintances as a liberal Democrat.

Seymour Glanzer, who has also worked on the case, has been in the office since 1965 and is chief of the fraud unit. He was also described as a liberal Democrat.

Neither the information that the three attorneys have collected nor the evidence developed by the F.B.I. has contradicted statements obtained from Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Stans or other committee members, the sources said.