

Antiwar Activist Says U.S. Bugged Her Phone in Miami

By Sanford J. Ungar
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Massachusetts woman has crusaded against the president's Vietnam war policy, charged in a lawsuit yesterday that the Nixon re-election forces and federal law enforcement agencies "screened, monitored and intercepted" phone calls at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach during the Republican National Convention in August.

Katharine C. Worden, a 47-year-old sculptor from the suburban Westwood, filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court here for an injunction to stop such activities by the Committee to Re-elect the President, the Republican National Committee, the FBI, the Secret Service and the Fontainebleau.

Her lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, also demanded \$1.125 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

The allegations in the suit were met with immediate denials from some of the organizations named as defendants.

Mrs. Worden said her problems arose from an antiwar advertisement she placed in Miami and Miami Beach newspapers during the GOP Convention, urging those attendees to write the President in support of withdrawal of the American "military presence in Indochina."

The advertisements, headed "Our President Needs Your Help," implored the conventioners "to convey your thoughts about this still esca-



KATHARINE C. WORDEN
... seeks injunction

lating war to the man who makes the decisions."

They were nearly identical to ads she had earlier run throughout Ohio and Kansas, which she says brought her hundreds of phone calls and letters.

In the Miami ads, Mrs. Worden encouraged readers to contact her at the Fontainebleau, where she rented two adjoining rooms for four days during the Republican convention.

But, she contended in the lawsuit, her callers—including John Gardner, head of the Common Cause citizens' lobby—were systematically prevented by the hotel switchboard from reaching her.

In some instances, Mrs. Worden said, they were told that she was not registered or

asked by Fontainebleau telephone operators whether they were calling in response to her advertisements.

During a press conference here to announce the lawsuit yesterday, Mrs. Worden and her ACLU lawyer, John H. F. Shattuck, of New York, said they could provide at least a dozen witnesses, including Gardner, Washington Evening Star-News columnist Mary McGrory and several news reporters to testify about their difficulties in reaching her.

The lawsuit also said that reporters for The Boston Globe and St. Louis Post-Dispatch were told by Fontainebleau officials that "the Republicans" had given "instructions" to monitor her calls.

It quoted Fontainebleau manager Benjamin Cahn, for example, as telling a Globe reporter that the hotel's security "was tied in with the Republican National Committee's security forces, the Secret Service, the FBI, the whole thing."

Mrs. Worden's lawsuit brought denials from some of the agencies and organizations named as defendants.

An FBI source said that the bureau had neither monitored her calls nor heard of anyone else doing so.

A spokesman for the Republican National Committee said, "There is, of course, nothing to it from our end. We did not instruct anyone to monitor her calls." DeVan Shumway, press spokesman for the re-election committee, did not return a reporter's phone calls to discuss the lawsuit.

The Secret Service said it would have no comment at all,

because the lawsuit is a "pending judicial matter."

In a telephone interview on Monday, Alan Margulies, the Fontainebleau's public relations officer, insisted that Mrs. Worden's calls were held up only because they had placed a burden on the hotel switchboard.

Margulies also denied ever talking with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter who quoted him as saying that all of her phone calls were "anti-Nixon."

Her anti war crusade has cost about \$40,000, Mrs. Worden said, all of it from her own money which she inherited from her father, a wealthy California businessman. She said she is a registered independent and has never participated in antiwar marches or demonstrations.

In 1960, when she was living in California, Mrs. Worden was a volunteer worker in Mr. Nixon's unsuccessful presidential campaign.