

White House Link To Spying Denied

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — A presidential spokesman asserted today that no one in the White House has directed any political sabotage or espionage.

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler, responding to a growing volume of reports that the White House was involved in an effort to sabotage Democratic political activities, declared:

"If anyone had been involved in such activities, they would no longer be at the White House."

Ziegler said political sabotage is "something we don't condone and won't tolerate."

Ziegler, who repeatedly referred to his statement as a "White House assertion," would not say whether the denial was based on an in-

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To Spying Denied

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investigation of reports carried in the Washington Post, New York Times, Time Magazine and other publications.

"It is a statement of confidence," Ziegler said, based on his knowledge of "what is tolerated or condoned" in the White House.

The Post, Time and Times have all published stories saying Donald Segretti, a Los Angeles attorney, attempted to sabotage Democratic presidential candidates both before and after the party's national convention as part of a concerted GOP campaign.

All three publications linked Segretti to Dwight Chapin, President Nixon's appointments secretary. The Post and Time said that Chapin, a University of Southern California classmate of Segretti, was Segretti's contact man.

Chapin issued a statement earlier branding the stories as "hearsay."

Monday when the reports linking Chapin and Segretti first appeared, Ziegler had said he would not "dignify with comment stories based on hearsay, character assassination, innuendo or guilty by association."

The Times reported today that Segretti made at least 28 telephone calls to the White House, Chapin's home and to the home of E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant, who was indicted in connection with the June 17 break-in at Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate Building.

Asked if White House telephone logs included Segretti's name, Ziegler replied, "To my knowledge we do not have such a log."
