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White House Denies Taking Hand in

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

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, responding to a growing volume of charges that the White House was involved in an alleged 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."

HE refused to say whether an investigation has been made of reports in the Washington Post and the New York Times linking presidential appointments secretary Dwight L. Chapin to a key figure in the alleged campaign of sabotage, Donald H. Segretti.

He said his comments are "an assertion" based on his knowledge of "what is tolerated or condoned" in the White House.

Asked whether his use of the word "directed"—rather than "aware"—was deliberate, Ziegler responded: "I think directed is quite clear . . . Anyone who would have been involved . . . would no longer be around here."

Earlier, when the reports linking Chapin and Segretti first appeared,

Any Political Sabotage or Spying

Ziegler said he would not "dignify with comment stories based on hearsay, character assassination, innuendo or guilt by association." His comments today expanded on his Tuesday statements.

ZIEGLER also repeated previous statements that no one presently employed at the White House "had any involvement, awareness or association" with the alleged bugging of Democratic National Headquarters in

(the Watergate.

The New York Times reported today it had learned that at least 28 calls from Segretti were made to the White House, to the home of Chapin, or to the home and office of former White House consultant, E. Howard Hunt Jr., who has been indicted in the Watergate case.

Newsmen asked Ziegler today whether Segretti had made calls to Chapin at the White House. He responded that

he had no way of knowing where the New York Times obtained its information and "that probably 3,000 phone calls are made to the White House every day or more . . ."

When newsmen asked whether Chapin's office kept a log on incoming calls, Ziegler said he didn't know what procedure is followed by Chapin's secretaries.

"To my knowledge we have no such log," Ziegler said.