

(Companion Story, "McCord Office Next to Muskie's," by Karlyn Barker, pasted separately.)

# White House: No Spy Director Here

## Ziegler Declines to Elaborate

By Peter Osnos

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The White House denied yesterday that anyone presently employed there "directed activities of sabotage, spying (or) espionage" against Democratic presidential candidates.

"If anyone had been involved in any such activity," said Ronald L. Ziegler, press secretary, "they would no longer be at the White House because this is activity that we do not condone and do not tolerate."

Although Ziegler's statement appeared to be the firmest denial yet of reports linking White House aides to the alleged GOP sabotage campaign, it fell short of satisfying questioning reporters.

The press secretary re-

peated three times under questioning that no White House employee "directed" such activities.

Asked whether anyone in the White House was aware that such activities were going on, Ziegler replied:

"I think directed is quite clear. As I said before anyone who would have been involved in any such activity wouldn't be around here anymore."

Later, Ziegler was asked: "Are you asserting that no one in the White House was involved in this?"

He replied: "I am saying that if anyone was involved in that type of activity which I referred to they would not be working here . . ."

Yesterday's questioning focused on a New York Times report asserting that numerous calls were made to the White House and to the home of presidential appointments secretary Dwight Chapin from the telephone of a man federal investigators have linked to

In addition, The Washington Post has examined telephone records of five long distance calls made on Aug. 18 to the Doral Beach Hotel, in Miami Beach, headquarters of presidential aides and other Republicans during the GOP national convention.

Those calls, the records retrace Young, a California attorney, are charged to Lawton and a close friend of Segretti.

According to Young, the calls were made from his phone by Segretti, immediately after Segretti had been summoned to appear before a grand jury investigating the June 17 break-in at the Watergate.

The Post reported Sunday that Segretti told Young he was trying to reach Chapin. After those phone calls, Segretti flew to Florida, Young said, and met with unnamed presidential aides who briefed him on what to say to the grand jury.

According to Young's account, the presidential aides had copies of FBI interviews with Segretti, including one not yet 24 hours old.

The White House had

branded The Post reports and subsequent reports in Time Magazine and the New York Times as "hearsay." But thus far, neither the White House nor spokesmen for the Committee for the Re-election of the President has issued specific rebuttals of facts contained in the news accounts.

Monday, Ziegler said that he would not "dignify with comment stories based on hearsay, character assassination innuendo or guilt by association." He repeated the essence of that position yesterday.

He refused again to say whether the White House was investigating the reports of political sabotage, repeating that an internal White House probe had concluded that no one there now had any "involvement, awareness or association" with the Watergate case.

However, disclosures in the past week have portrayed the Watergate incident as only one part of a much broader campaign plan of espionage and sabotage.

Ziegler said that his denial that anyone now em-

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the instances of alleged political sabotage.

The Times said that a telephone at the home of Donald H. Segretti was used for 28 calls to Chapin's home, the White House and the office of E. Howard Hunt Jr. a former White House consultant who has been indicted in connection with the June 17 break-in Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate.

The first of the calls, according to the Times, was in March and the last to the White House on June 23.

The Washington Post, quoting federal investigators, said last week that Chapin and Hunt served as Washington contacts for Segretti who was allegedly an operative in the sabotage-espionage campaign.

Remainder of story not kept; contains nothing not available in other stories.