

GOP Charges Of Campaign Spying Denied

By Karlyn Barker
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New Republican charges of campaign chicanery by McGovern forces were branded as either untrue or unfounded yesterday by both the targets of the allegations and some of the sources for them.

At the same time, in another matter stemming from the Watergate bugging investigation, a D.C. Superior Court judge ruled that former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans does not have to appear at the Florida trial of one of seven defendants in the Watergate case.

The charges against McGovern forces were made by Republican campaign manager Clark MacGregor, who said Thursday that an Aug. 5 article in the Atlanta Constitution "indicates that a team of from 15 to 100 spies has been assembled by Sen. George McGovern." MacGregor said that supporters and aides of President Nixon "have been targeted for political espionage."

MacGregor implored the press to investigate this and other incidents of Democratic campaign "irregularities," saying McGovern's operations "call for a balanced and impartial inquiry."

The writer of the Constitution article said yesterday that his report indicated the McGovern team was a "truth squad . . . doing nothing more than reading newspapers and periodicals to compile a public record catalogue of the people on Nixon's staff."

At no point did the article use the term "spies," the word used by MacGregor when referring to the newspaper account.

Bob Hurt, now working for a Democratic congressman in Georgia, said the activities he described in his article about McGovern investigators "were open and above board. There was no effort to conceal what they were doing."

Hurt's article reported that McGovern was using "15 volunteer investigators" to make "background checks on major administration officials." The story quoted one investigator as saying he hoped eventually to expand the "truth squad" to 50.

a precoded addressograph machine belonging to the department of agriculture when mailing out fund solicitations.

McGovern workers in Harrisburg yesterday denied stealing any lists or using any addressograph machine, saying that at the time the article was written, "volunteers were hand-addressing 70,000 names on envelopes. If we'd had an addressograph, we'd have used it."

Kirby Jones, a McGovern aide in Washington, said yesterday that "all the polls for the last year and a half have been wrong" about McGovern's lack of popularity.

"They were wrong in the primaries, and they're wrong now," he said. "Our own polls show us even, and we have always released exactly what our polls say."

This is the second time in four days that MacGregor has made apparently unsubstantiated public charges against Democrats.

On Monday the Republican official reported what he called "proven facts of opposition-incited disruptions" of the Nixon campaign and asked that The Washington Post investigate them. Police and Republican and Democratic campaign workers later told The Post that instances of violence were isolated and had not been linked to McGovern's or proposal of Jan. 25 calls for ganization.

In refusing to extradite Stans to the Oct. 30 Florida trial of Bernard L. Barker, Judge Paul F. McArdle said only that his appearance is not "material and necessary to this case." Stans is finance chairman of the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Barker, a former CIA employee arrested June 17 inside Democratic headquarters at the Watergate, is accused in Florida of misusing a notary public seal on a \$25,000 campaign check from Kenneth Dahlberg, Republican Midwest financial chairman.

Dahlberg and Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former re-election committee treasurer, have already been ordered to appear at Baker's trial.

McArdle, a Republican appointed to the court by Nixon in 1970, apparently agreed with the Stans affidavit that testifying in Florida would pose a hardship on his fundraising efforts prior to the Nov. 7 election and on his ailing wife, now hospitalized in Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"My daily visits with my wife are of exceptional importance to both of us," Stans said, "and any absences from the city which prevent my regular visits are most depressing to her."

Dr. Peter B. Cramblet, in a separate affidavit, said Mrs. Stans has been hospitalized for 10 weeks with a "serious blood disorder."

Stans' attorney, Kenneth Parkinson, said the "obvious purpose" of the extradition order "is to tie Mr. Stans in Florida in the last 12 days of the campaign when he is badly needed here in Washington to raise funds."

MacGregor's charges also included a report that McGovern workers in Pennsylvania had used "maling lists stolen from" that state's department of agriculture; a statement from an unnamed press source that Richard Dougherty, McGovern's press secretary, had bragged about planting spies in Sen. Hubert Humphrey's and the GOP campaigns and a charge that McGovern people "leaked concocted" voter preference polls showing their candidate in better standing than he really is.

Dougherty has called MacGregor's charges "outrage." MacGregor said information about the alleged stolen mailing lists came from an Oct. 3 article in the Lancaster, Pa., New Era.

However, the article—as read to a reporter by the paper's library staff—did not accuse McGovern workers of stealing the lists, only of using