

No Sabotage Quiz Planned

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Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said yesterday that Justice Department has no "credible evidence" that any federal laws were violated during alleged acts of political sabotage against the Democrats by operatives of President Nixon's re-election campaign.

He added that no special investigation of the reported sabotage is now under way and that such a probe does not appear to be warranted.

Asked whether it might not be "useful" to stop the operation of any "sabotage squad" before the presidential election on Nov. 7, the attorney general suggested that "public attention" to the matter would probably serve as a sufficient "deterrent" to such activity.

"The full matter . . . if there is one, has gotten such an exposure in some parts of the media—like I say, based on hearsay, rumor, speculation—that the public attention to it, if any does exist, is probably a great de-

terrent," Kleindienst told reporters.

Just two hours earlier, a top aide to Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern demanded an immediate Justice Department inquiry into an alleged Republican scheme to coerce money from large corporations for political sabotage, in exchange for favors granted by the Nixon administration.

Frank Mankiewicz, McGovern's national political coordinator, said at a press

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conference that he wrote Kleindienst on Oct. 20 calling his attention to 13 specific alleged improprieties.

"I do not believe that we have an investigation with respect" to the alleged sabotage, Kleindienst told reporters as he left a luncheon meeting of the Naval Officers Wives Club at the Sheraton-Park Hotel where he was the featured speaker—"because as of right now, any evidence that has come to us would not indicate the violation of a federal law."

But the attorney general quickly explained, "that doesn't mean that we wouldn't (investigate) if that kind of evidence would be made available."

He said that he himself was not convinced of the existence of what his questioners called a Republican "sabotage squad" working against the Democrats.

Kleindienst repeatedly challenged the reporters to "get the evidence to me that would indicate that a specific person has violated a specific criminal law, and my department will investigate it."

"About all I've seen is what I would characterize generally as hearsay and speculative reports in some of the newspapers," Kleindienst said, echoing the position recently taken by White House and Republican campaign officials.

The reports, in the Washington Post and other publications, have cited sources close to the federal investigation of the Watergate bugging affair and Justice Department and FBI files on the subject as the source of information about other—perhaps related—acts of sabotage.



United Press International

Frank Mankiewicz demands Justice Department inquiry into alleged GOP scheme to coerce large corporations.

presidential aides during the GOP convention in Miami Beach about what he should say before a federal grand jury here investigating the Watergate bugging.

Kleindienst also pledged that the Justice Department would "thoroughly and fairly investigate" all 700 complaints about possible election-law violations re-

Nearly all of the Mankiewicz charges of wrong doing previously have been disclosed by reporters, GAO and members of Congress.

But he linked previously unrelated instances of alleged campaign contributions for political favors to funds financing the alleged political sabotage operations.

Mankiewicz said he called the press conference as a "prelude" to what McGovern will say about corruption and the Nixon administration to a national television audience tonight at 7:30 p.m. on NBC and ABC.

The letter sought an investigation into what Mankiewicz described as a "clandestine campaign of bribery and/or espionage and sabotage financed with secret Nixon campaign funds and directed by high officials of your administration."

He asked for an inquiry into the November Group, Inc., Mr. Nixon's campaign advertising agency incorporated in New York in February by G. Gordon Liddy, former counsel for the Nixon campaign committee who since has been indicted in the Watergate bugging case.

As one example of relating campaign contributions to alleged sabotage, Mankiewicz cited a GAO report that Mr. Nixon's campaign finance committee failed to report a \$25,000 contribution from Dwayne Andreas of Minnesota that later was deposited in a Miami bank account by Bernard Barker, also indicted in the Watergate case.

The Andreas contribution had been delivered to Kenneth H. Dahlberg, chairman of the Minnesota Nixon finance committee. According to a House Banking and Currency Committee report, after the contribution was made, a group that included Andreas and Dahlberg was awarded a federal bank charter without hearings to consider two other charter applications.

Mankiewicz also said the November group "may . . . have . . . channeled . . . se-