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# New Report On Secret GOP Fund

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## Washington

H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's White House chief of staff, was one of five high-ranking presidential associates authorized to approve payments from a secret Nixon campaign cash fund, according to federal investigators and accounts of sworn testimony before the Watergate grand jury, the Washington Post has learned.

The secret fund, which at times totaled \$700,000, was uncovered during the FBI's Watergate bugging investigation. It financed an apparently unprecedented spying and sabotage campaign against Democratic presidential candidates that was conceived by high Nixon aides, according to Federal investigators.

Haldeman, 47, is generally considered the man closest to President Nixon in the White House and the primary architect of his re-

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election campaign. He began his political association with the President in 1956, as an advance man for Mr. Nixon's vice presidential campaign.

Informed yesterday of the information obtained by the Washington Post, Haldeman issued the following statement through the White House press-office:

"Your inquiry is based on misinformation because the reference to Bob Haldeman is untrue."

### TESTIMONY

According to the sworn testimony, others authorized to approve payments from the fund—all of them among President Nixon's closest confidantes and all named in previous reports by the Washington Post, are:

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who resigned as Mr. Nixon's campaign manager July 1; former Secretary of Commerce Maurice C. Stans, the finance chairman of the Nixon re-election campaign; Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former White House assistant to Haldeman and now deputy director of Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign, and Herbert W. Kalmbach, the president's personal lawyer who, until April 7 served as associate finance chairman of the Nixon campaign.

The Post has been told that all five were named in testimony to the grand jury by Hugh W. Sloan Jr., the former treasurer of the Nixon campaign. Sources close to the investigation said they had confirmed independently of Sloan that the five men had control of the fund.

It was learned that all five men have been questioned by the FBI about disbursements from the fund, which was kept in a safe in Stans' office.

Among the persons who

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received payments from the secret fund, Sloan is known to have told the grand jury, was G. Gordon Liddy, one of the seven men indicted on Charges of conspiring to eavesdrop in the Democrats' headquarters inside the Watergate.

Liddy, an ex-White House aide and former finance counsel of the Nixon re-election committee, withdrew \$50,000, according to investigators.

In addition, investigators have said the fund was used to pay for the activities of Donald H. Segretti, identified by federal officials as an agent provocateur allegedly hired by White House aides to disrupt and damage the campaigns of Democratic presidential candidates.

### APPROVED

Expenditures of hundreds of thousands of dollars—all approved by either Haldeman, Stans, Mitchell, Magruder or Kalmbach—were made from the secret fund to pay for an extensive undercover campaign aimed at discrediting Democratic candidates, according to federal investigators.

The only record of the secret fund was a single sheet of lined yellow ledger paper on which were listed the names of about 15 people who withdrew money from it, alongside a running total of their withdrawal, the Post learned.

That list was destroyed by a Nixon campaign official after five men were arrested inside the Democrats' Watergate headquarters here on June 17.

When the question of the fund was first raised, a Nixon campaign spokesman said that "there have been



H. R. HALDEMAN  
Top Nixon aide

and are cash funds in this committee used for various legitimate purposes such as reimbursements for expenditures for advances on travel."

"However," the same spokesman said in mid-September, "no one employed by this committee at this time has used any funds (for purposes) that were illegal or improper."