

(Companion article by Steven V. Roberts, "New Account of Sabotage," pasted separately.)
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**McGovern Asserts Nixon
 Puts U.S. in 'Moral Crisis'**

NYTimes

Charges Abuse of Power

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
 Special to The New York Times

DETROIT, Oct. 25—Senator George McGovern, making his harshest attack on the President, declared tonight that the United States faced a "moral and a constitutional crisis of unprecedented dimensions" because of "widespread abuse of power" by the Nixon Administration.

In a nationally televised address that he described as the most important of his campaign for the Presidency, the Democratic Senator accused President Nixon of having catered to special interests, usurped Congressional authority, made a "savage" effort to intimidate the news media and tried to undermine the political process itself.

The 30-minute paid telecast came after appearances in Milwaukee and Cleveland in which Mr. McGovern charged that a published report linking the White House chief of staff to political espionage "places the whole ugly mess of corruption, of sabotage, of wire-tapping right squarely in the lap of Richard Nixon."

Mr. McGovern referred in
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the two cities to allegations in today's editions of The Washington Post that H. R. Haldeman, the President's senior aide, had helped to control a \$700,000 Republican fund that financed attempts to disrupt the Democratic campaign for the White House.

The White House denied the newspaper's report last night and again this morning, accusing The Post of "shabby journalism" and "a blatant effort at character assassination."

Before the White House issued its denial, Mr. McGovern told 4,000 persons at Cleveland State University that the charge against Mr. Haldeman was an illustration of "criminal activity and political subversion that is

operating from deep inside the White House itself."

Senator McGovern's televised address was videotaped in Washington on Monday and made public here this afternoon. It contained no direct references to Mr. Haldeman or any other members of the President's personal staff.

'Power . . . From Him Alone'

But Mr. McGovern blamed the alleged espionage and sabotage activities on the President and his closest associates, saying:

"The men who have collected millions in secret money, who have passed out special favors, who have ordered political sabotage, who have invaded our offices in the dead of night—all of these men work for Mr. Nixon.

"Most of them he hired himself. And their power comes from him alone. They act on his behalf and they all accept his orders."

Mr. McGovern said that the President had blocked any independent investigation of the allegations growing out of the invasion and wiretapping of the Democratic party's national headquarters in June.

"He refused to answer questions from either the press or the people," the Senator added, "He stays hidden in the White House, hoping you will mistake silence for innocence."

Fifth in a Series

The television address over the American Broadcasting Company network was the fifth in a series of Democratic broadcasts intended to win support for Mr. McGovern's candidacy and the third in which he appeared by himself to discuss basic campaign themes.

Unlike earlier telecasts in which the Senator outlined his views on the Vietnam war and the economy, the broadcast tonight was devoted almost entirely to a sharp attack on the Republican Administration. Except for a brief statement by

Mr. McGovern that he was committed to restoring Americans' trust in government, his remarks were devoted to an indictment of the President's stewardship that the Senator has been reciting daily to much smaller audiences.

Mr. McGovern charged that the Administration had abandoned antitrust proceedings against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation after the concern had offered to help finance the Republican National Convention.

He protested that the Price Commission had granted an exemption from price controls to the Combined Insurance Company of Chicago one week after its board chairman, W. Clement Stone, a major contributor to Mr. Nixon's campaigns, had dined in the White House.

Favors Charged

The Senator linked Republican campaign contributions from the dairy industry and carpet manufacturers to the dispensation of Government favors, and he said that Mr. Nixon's refusal to disclose the sources of \$10-million in "secret" campaign funds evaded "troubling questions about why our Government has acted the way it has over the past four years."

The Senator asserted that Mr. Nixon had demeaned the judiciary by nominating unqualified individuals to the Supreme Court; had undermined Congress through "the encroachment of arbitrary executive power" in waging the Vietnam

war and managing the economy, and had "weakened" the Constitution by eavesdropping on individuals, arresting antiwar demonstrators en masse and trying to "intimidate the press."

"We are confronted, in short, with both a moral and a constitutional crisis of unprecedented dimensions," he said. "Ambitious men come and go, but a free society might never recover from a sustained assault on its most basic institutions."

"And one can only ask if this has happened in four years, to what lengths would the same leadership go in another four years, once freed of the restraints of facing the people for re-election?"

The Democratic nominee said that the issue was whether he or Mr. Nixon had the "integrity" needed to restore a bond of trust between "those who elect and those who are elected."

Mr. Nixon, he contended, had failed to "lift the moral vision of America and rekindle our sense of national purpose."

Mr. McGovern said on the way to Cleveland from Milwaukee that his confidence of victory had been bolstered by private opinion polls showing that voters—particularly Republicans and independents—were becoming increasingly disturbed over accounts of espionage and sabotage on behalf of the President's candidacy.

Accordingly, the Presidential challenger stepped up his attacks on the incumbent president.