

McGovern 'snoopers' hardly compare with Republicans'

WASHINGTON — President Nixon's aides, responding to charges that a Republican sabotage squad had damaged the Democratic campaign, claimed the Democrats had pulled similar dirty tricks.

We have just concluded an intensive investigation of George McGovern's undercover operations. We found one crack investigator on the payroll, Walter Sheridan, who was hired to find out the extent of the Republi-

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can espionage and sabotage. He also investigated some of the Democrats for Nixon and confirmed McGovern's suspicion that they had usually voted for Republican candidates in the past.

It was also Sheridan who uncovered the fact that soybean tycoon Dwayne Andreas, who contributed 25,000 of the money used to finance the Watergate caper, had received a valuable bank charter from the Nixon Administration.

Rebozo, Bobst and Stone

A separate research crew, headed by Ted Van Dyke, dug into the backgrounds of such Nixon cronies as Bebe Rebozo, Elmer Bobst and Clement Stone. The Democratic researchers also searched the public records for information about the President's personal finances. They checked, too, whether big Republican contributors had received any antitrust settlements, price increases or other federal favors.

Van Dyke's volunteers confined their efforts, however, strictly to research. They did no investigating beyond scouring the newspapers and examining public documents. When they came up with facts that might embarrass the President, they attempted to plant the information with reporters.

Before the Democratic convention, we also learned, McGovern compiled personal information on just about every delegate. These individual files were assembled in a computer data bank, although McGovern had denounced the use of computers to keep tabs on people. He had spoken out against the "pervasive power of computer data banks."

Computerized profiles

We have obtained a confidential printout of the computerized profiles prepared by McGovern's staff under the direction of Rick Stearns. At the press of a button, campaign aides could determine any delegate's name, address, telephone number, spouse, age, sex, race, education, occupation, religion and military service—not to mention his political

leanings, personal "interests" and stand on the issues.

The computer instantly divulged, for example, that Raul Castro, a Tucson, Ariz., delegate, was pledged to Sen. Ed Muskie, but preferred Sen. Hubert Humphrey; or that James M. Fitzgerald, a Hartford, Conn., banker, disagreed with McGovern on economic policy; or that Christine Sarcone, an 18-year-old Des Moines high school student, was a strong Muskie delegate; or that Martin D. Dubin, a DeKalb, Ill., college teacher was interested in deep discussions of America's world role; or that Victor Miller, a Florence, Ky., insurance man, was active in the American Legion and "opposes GM (George McGovern's) position on Vietnam"; or that Vermont's former Governor Philip Hoff was a World War II Navy veteran who is opposed to the Vietnam war.

Fun-loving prankster

During the primaries, McGovern used the fun-loving political prankster Dick Tuck to play a few harmless tricks on Democratic rival Muskie. Those who attended a Muskie coffee klatch in New Hampshire for example, found McGovern stickers pasted to the bottoms of their coffee cups after they had drained the coffee.

But McGovern has refused to allow his supporters to engage in sabotage against the President. Even Tuck's practical jokes, which have been a bane to Nixon throughout his public life, have been ruled out.

When the President hobnobbed with wealthy Democrats for Nixon at John Connally's ranch in Texas, Tuck wanted to drive up in an armored truck followed by a laundry truck with Mexican license plates. Tuck thought this would be a clever way to dramatize that money for the Watergate affair had been raised in Texas and laundered through a Mexico City bank account. But McGovern aides said no and Tuck was obliged to give up his political pranks for the 1972 season.

In sum, we found that McGovern's undercover operation doesn't compare to the systematic sabotage, wiretapping and espionage conducted by President Nixon's campaign aides.

VIETNAM SHOWDOWN

Communist cadres in South Vietnam, apparently, are all set to shift from military to political tactics.

Clearly, the Communists intend to use their dedicated and disciplined cadres to see that the anticipated election turns out favorably for them.