

Watergate Incident Fails To Influence Area Voters

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By ERIC GREEN
Staff Writer

The Watergate bugging investigation and related espionage cases are having a negligible effect on the political intentions of Frederick area voters, a News-Post survey reveals.

Out of 30 people surveyed, the poll shows that only one person would be influenced if President Nixon was indicted for masterminding the spying on the Democrat's activities at the Watergate Apartment - Hotel complex in Washington, D.C.

Most persons surveyed said they did not want to believe that President Nixon or any president would plot a spying scheme on a political party's activities.

Fourteen people surveyed said that they had not followed the

Watergate "caper" case and knew nothing about it despite its heavy emphasis in the news media.

Some people expressed resignation at the entire Watergate controversy saying such affairs are typical in an election year.

"I haven't been paying much attention to the entire thing, but I don't think President Nixon had anything to do with it. He's not that type of fellow, he is too big for that. I'm not surprised about this business though, because there's always some crooked people in both parties," Mrs. William Beall of Damascus said.

"My vote won't be affected. I'm not shocked about this. I think the only bad thing about this is that they got caught," James Gladhill of Damascus said.

"I think there's always going

to be a scandal somewhere," Mrs. Marvin Alexander of New Market said.

Other voters think Senator McGovern, the Democrat's standard-bearer, is exploiting the issue for political gain.

"I think this is strictly political. If I were in McGovern's shoes, I'd wait until after the election. I wouldn't use that kind of issue to stand on. This stuff goes on all the time, it's just more political mudslinging," Mrs. Louis Bargmann said.

"It's McGovern's only issue. It won't have any effect on our votes," Mrs. T. M. Biser of Frederick said. "We are 100 per cent for Nixon."

Dennis Corrick of Frederick said, "I don't consider this one of the real issues. McGovern
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is trying to make something out of it but it's become overblown."

Support for the President's integrity was another reaction to whether President Nixon masterminded the spying of the Democrat's activities at the Watergate complex. Many people said they did not want to believe that Nixon would stoop so low.

Charles Boone said, "This incident is really pretty awful, what we've been reading in the papers. President Nixon hopefully doesn't have anything to do with it. But both parties in an election year exaggerate issues."

"I don't know about it and I don't care, we're still going to vote for Nixon," Mrs. Herbert Brent of Unionville said.

Mrs. Jerome Crewe of Buckeystown expressed disgust at the Watergate affair, but doesn't think President Nixon should be held responsible for the spying activity.

"It's the craziest, most stupid thing anybody could do. I have to believe the evidence. I really would like to get at the bottom of this. I don't want to feel any president would stoop to anything like this; you would have to definitely prove the charge.

"President Nixon was not behind this. It's a big mess and hard on the country. The Republicans and Democrat parties are only as honest as its people. This won't change my vote for Nixon," John M. Bassett of Damascus said.

Confusion about who is really behind the Watergate spying was also expressed.

"It's such a mixed up affair and hard to understand. I don't know what to say. It doesn't matter if Nixon was behind it. I'm a Democrat and I'll be for McGovern," Leonard Allison of Mt. Pleasant said.

"I don't know whether Nixon had anything to do with it, but if it was true it would help me vote for McGovern," David Curtis said.

George Hoffman commented, "there's probably a lot of truth to this, but just how much, I don't know. I couldn't see how Nixon could be involved. But it's all a lot of mudslinging, it's a lot of no good. But the thing won't affect my vote. I'm still undecided anyway."

The News-Post survey was compiled Sunday, Oct. 15, from names chosen by chance selection from the telephone directory for Frederick and surrounding communities.