

Kennedy Ties White House To '72 Spying

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Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has reported uncovering evidence that "strongly indicates" White House involvement in "a wide range of espionage and sabotage activities" during the 1972 presidential campaign.

The evidence "strongly indicates" that "one key participant was in repeated contact with the White House,

the White House convention headquarters, and White House aides during relevant time periods," Kennedy wrote in a letter to Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.).

"At least part of the financing was arranged through a key Republican fund-raiser who is a close associate of President Nixon's," the letter, dated Jan. 22 and made public yesterday, said.

Despite the evidence, Kennedy said, both the White House and the Justice Department failed to investigate any of the undercover activities except those directly involving the bugging of the Democrats' Watergate headquarters.

The thrust of Kennedy's statements parallels news reports since October that the Watergate bugging stemmed from a White House-inspired campaign of espionage and sabotage against the Democrats.

But Kennedy, whose Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure has been investigating such allegations since Oct. 12, is the first public official to claim that he has documentary evidence of the undercover campaign's existence.

Sources on Capitol Hill reported that the Kennedy subcommittee's investigation found extensive involvement of several White House officials and Presidential aides at the Nixon re-election committee, in addition to the two persons cited but not named in the senator's letter.

The sources identified the "key participant" who was in contact with the White House as Donald H. Segretti, a 31-year-old California lawyer allegedly hired as a political agent provocateur by Dwight L. Chapin, Mr. Nixon's ap-

pointments secretary.

The "close" associate of President Nixon" who allegedly helped arrange part of the financing for the sabotage and espionage was identified as Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's personal lawyer and former deputy finance chairman of his re-election campaign.

The information developed by the Kennedy subcommittee was described as "devastating" and "appalling" by a Republican senator who said he had seen only part of it.

It is known that the Kennedy subcommittee subpoenaed bank and telephone records, some of which showed that Kalmbach made payments and phone calls to Segretti and other persons who allegedly worked as spies and saboteurs against the Democrats.

Though some of these spying activities were uncovered by the FBI during the Watergate bugging investigation, federal sources have said that the activities were not fully investigated because many of them skirted the edge of the law or did not have a direct relationship to the Watergate bugging.

See WATERGATE, A12, Col. 3

WATERGATE, From A1

It had previously been reported that Kalmbach paid Segretti about \$35,000 in Nixon campaign funds to work against the Democrats. Capitol Hill sources said that the evidence uncovered by Kennedy shows that "substantially more" money was funneled through Kalmbach to finance clandestine political activities.

"Kennedy's statements were on two pages of an 11-page letter to Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The letter was an at-

tachment to the 1973 budget request for Kennedy's subcommittee. It said in part:

"The information gathered thus far by the Subcommittee strongly indicates that a wide range of espionage and sabotage activities did occur during the recent presidential campaign, and especially its primary phase, that these activities were planned and initiated no later than the middle of 1971, that one key participant was in repeated contact with the White House, the White House convention headquarters during relevant time periods, that at least part of the financing was arranged through a key Republican fund-raiser who is a close associate of President Nixon's, and that neither the federal criminal investigation nor the White House administrative inquiry included any substantial investigation of the alleged sabotage and espionage operations apart from those surrounding the Watergate episode itself."

In his letter to Sen. Eastland, Kennedy made these additional points:

"Subpoenas were utilized to obtain records of various types and . . . were also served on individuals who declined to volunteer information to the subcommittee's investigators."

The forthcoming investigation planned by Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.) "will require the calling of various Executive Branch and White House personnel with the attendant problems that course entails."

Kennedy's letter said the subcommittee began its investigation after "the public questioning of the integrity of a criminal investigation headed by a designated surrogate campaigner for President Nixon and of an administrative inquiry conducted by the White House counsel, when the Nixon re-election committee was the principal subject of the investigation . . ."

The "surrogate campaigner" referred to by Kennedy is Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, under whose auspices the Justice Department investigation of the bugging was conducted.

The White House counsel is John W. Dean III, who conducted an inquiry for President Nixon that concluded that the White House and re-election committee were not involved in the Watergate incident.

Though Kennedy's subcommittee conducted the preliminary inquiry into the espionage allegations, Kennedy has said that he is willing to have Sen. Ervin take over the investigation so it will not be open to partisan charges. Ervin, also a Democrat, has a

relatively nonpartisan reputation.

In his letter, Kennedy anticipated that presidential aides would not willingly testify, and said he supports a "strong special resolution" by the Senate to grant broad subpoena power.

On the matter of executive privilege, Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, said yesterday that he anticipates a fight with Sen. Ervin over whether he will testify at public hearings on the espionage activities.

In a television interview with Elizabeth Drew last night on WETA, the Public Broadcasting Service, Colson indicated that he expects to be called at the Ervin investigation because he is a personal friend of Watergate defendant E. Howard Hunt Jr., and had recommended Hunt for his job as a White House consultant.

Hunt, a 21-year veteran of the CIA, pleaded guilty last month along with four others to all charges against them in the Watergate trial. Two other defendants—both former senior officials in the Nixon re-election campaign—were convicted in the case Tuesday.

Colson said that "the question of the confidentiality of the relationship of a personal adviser to the President (executive privilege), or personal adviser to a member of Congress, is something that survives whether you're still on the White House staff or not . . ."

Colson is leaving the White House March 1 and indicated that he might be unwilling to testify in detail about matters that involved White House business.

However, he said: "I'd be happy to tell Sen. Ervin or anyone else exactly what I've just said to you, which is that I had no knowledge or involvement in the Watergate."

When asked if he expected a fight with Sen. Ervin about executive privilege, Colson said: "I know that I will."

In his press conference Wednesday, President Nixon seemed to place a narrower interpretation on executive privilege, saying "the general attitude I have is to be as liberal as possible in terms of making people available to testify before Congress."

He added: "Where the matter does not involve a direct

conference with or discussion within the administration, particularly where the President is concerned and where it is an extraneous matter as far as the White House is concerned . . . we are not going to assert it."

This would seem to apply to hearings on the Watergate case since the White House has either denied involvement or said it would not "dignify" the charges with a comment.