

Infiltrated Peace Vigil

Student Says He Spied for GOP

By Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

Washington Post Staff Writers

The chairman of the Young Republican organization at George Washington University says that he was paid \$150 a week in campaign funds last year to spy on radical groups for President Nixon's re-election committee.

Theodore F. Brill 20, said Friday that his assignment was to infiltrate the group conducting a peace vigil in front of the White House, both as a member and on the occasion assist in arranging for the arrest of the demonstrators for drug offenses.

In a lengthy telephone interview from his home in River Edge, N.J., Brill said that:

"My job was terminated two days after the Watergate bugging broke." Brill was fired during a luncheon meeting June 19 with the man from the President's re-election committee who had hired him. That person told him that his spying efforts were being discontinued because of the Watergate bugging arrests on June 17 and because "people at the White House were upset."

He was hired and paid by George K. Gorton 25, the national college director for the Nixon re-election effort. Gorton yesterday acknowledged hiring and paying Brill with Nixon campaign funds for undercover work against radical groups, but denied that Brill was fired as a result of the Watergate incident.

Spokesmen for the White House and the President's re-election committee were at

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... the time saying they knew nothing about the Watergate bugging.

He was paid five weeks in May and June, 1972—once in cash and four times with Gorton's personal check. Brill said he later learned that "it was a mistake that I got paid in check because there were supposed to be no records kept."

A preliminary check of campaign expenditure reports shows no record of Nixon committee payments to Brill. Failure to publicly report those payments would be a violation of the new campaign spending law that had gone into effect on April 7, 1972.

... Gorton that there were a number of groups elsewhere doing similar work and that some of them were "some of the best of who knew."

He was told his spy-ing would start with the White House peace vigil. Group spread to other radical groups and eventually include work in Miami during the Republican National Convention to infiltrate radical groups there.

Brill said that he had no knowledge of the Watergate bugging before the arrests there and did not report to or know any of the seven men who pleaded guilty or were convicted in the Watergate trial in January. Brill is the first person who has had no contact with the Watergate bugging and publicly acknowledged that he was doing undercover work for the Nixon campaign.

Brill, a junior history major at George Washington and chairman of the college Republican group, said he now considers his work "at least illegal but maybe a little unethical."

He said that Gorton told him the operation was "supersecret."

Brill said that he has never been approached by the FBI or any other law enforcement official to discuss his spying activities.

"I passed myself off as genuine member of the peace movement," Brill said. "I was told to see if the Quaker demonstrators in front of the White House or anyone else, or anyone passing through town planned violent demonstrations at the Republican Convention in Miami."

Brill said that Gorton, his contact at the Nixon committee, in the beginning of June said that we might have to get them (the demonstrators) out of there (from in front of the White House).

"Gorton said how to remove the protesters would be up to me. So I did report to him that there was going to be a drug party and he said that he'd take care of it and told me not to go down there that night," Brill said. He said that he assumed Gorton was going to call the police.

Gorton, who was director of the youth ball for the President's inauguration and who is presently unemployed, denied

yesterday that he gave Brill an assignment to find a way to remove demonstrators. "My direction to Brill was only to find out what radicals are doing," Gorton said. "It was part of my job to know what all of youth was thinking."

Gorton reported to Kenneth Rietz, the director of youth for the President's re-election committee. Rietz knew that I could supply him with information on what radicals were thinking," Gorton said. "I supplied the information but Rietz didn't ask where I got it."

Rietz in turn reported to Fredric V. Malek, a deputy director of the Nixon campaign and now the No. 2 man in the Office of Management and Budget.

A spokesman for the Nixon committee, DeVan L. Shumway, said yesterday that none of the top committee officials were aware of Brill's activities.

Watergate bugging conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, the former Nixon finance counsel, had been charged with setting up an intelligence-gathering network for the Nixon committee to obtain information on radical groups, according to testimony in the Watergate trial.

Nixon committee spokesman Shumway said yesterday that Brill's activity was "apparently not part of the Liddy operation." Gorton confirmed this by saying that "Gordon Liddy didn't know that Ted Brill existed."

Gorton was vague on the details of the intelligence-gathering. At one point in an interview yesterday, Gorton said that, as national college director for the Nixon campaign, he had people gathering information on radicals "in 38 states." Later Gorton said that Brill was the only one.

Gorton said that "spying is a funny way to describe" Brill's activity, but Gorton acknowledged that working undercover was the only way for Brill to be effective. "If he'd gone up and introduced himself as from the President's committee, he wouldn't have got a thing," Gorton said.

Craig Hillegass, a Kappa Sigma fraternity brother of Brill's at George Washington University, said that Brill had described the spying activities last summer somewhat differently.

"Ted said that Gorton's idea

was to create an embarrassment to the Democrats... (because) any embarrassment to radical groups would be an embarrassment to liberal politics and Sen. McGovern," Hillegass said.

"The way he was paid was right out of James Bond," Hillegass said. "Ted said he once was told to meet a woman with a red dress, a white carnation and carrying a newspaper... he exchanged his written report for an envelope containing his pay."

On another occasion, Hillegass said, "Ted told me he went to a bookstore on the corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania (Avenue) and was handed a book by someone with his pay in the book."

Brill denied that he received his money this way or that he made any written reports on his activities. He said his reports were made to Gorton about once every two days by telephone.

Brill was recommended for the undercover job by Roger Stone, the head of the District of Columbia Young Republicans, according to both Brill and Gorton.

The peace vigil which Brill was spying on in front of the White House was the subject of stepped-up activity by the U.S. Park Police during the period of May and June, 1972.

Brill was being paid by

The Nixon Committee

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In late May, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit against the park police charging "calculated... harassment and intimidation" of the peace vigil that was then nearly a year old. The suit charged more than a dozen instances of arrests and alleged harassment in late May—including the seizure of a Vietnam veteran amputee's crutches.

In early June, U.S. District

Court Judge George L. Harb ordered that "sleeping, lying down, sprawling or sitting down in front of the White House during the vigil is not protected by law. Harb charged the government with timidity for failing to clear the President's doorstep, adding that the peace vigil is "a insult to the American people" and showed disrespect for the President.

from Nixon