



## Better Job

# Martha's Phone Ripper in

SFE Examiner

MAY 6 1973

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Stephen B. King, who Martha Mitchell says ripped a telephone from her motel room last year and called for a doctor to inject a tranquilizer in her buttocks, went on to bigger things. He is now chief recruiter for the Department of Agriculture. King, 31, working at the time for the Committee for Re-election of the President, reportedly was assigned as bodyguard for Mrs. Mitchell in a Newport Beach, Calif., motel suite after the Water-gate arrests last June 17.

### Can't Find Him

Efforts to contact King at the Department of Agriculture were turned aside by

his office by aides to Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz. A reporter was told to contact Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Joseph R. Wright Jr., who oversees personnel and other administrative functions.

Asked if King might be leaving his post, a \$27,000 job he has held since mid-winter, Wright replied: "No, I don't think so. I don't know of any reason."

### Assignments

King joined USDA last December. After working briefly in the department's Office of Inspector General, King was assigned as a "special assistant" to Butz's staff.

There had been no official announcement of King's ap-

pointment, although the department routinely publicizes less sensitive posts.

Wright said King is assigned primarily "to assist us in getting personnel actions" through channels. Wright said King helps weed out requests for transfers within USDA and applications from outside.

King joined the Nixon campaign organization in May, 1972, and was "director of security" until December when he went to USDA.

Prior to that, King was an investigator for the Senate government Operations sub-committee on permanent investigations. Before taking the Senate job, King was an FBI agent for about 2½

years, beginning in July, 1967.