

A Sabotage of Democrats?

WAS SENATOR George McGovern (D-S.D.) the handpicked candidate of the Committee to Re-Elect the President? Were San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto's "Mafia" troubles traceable to the White House? Was Senator Edmund Muskie (D-Me.) made to look like a weak-kneed cry-baby in New Hampshire by a conspiracy directly linked to CREP?

The ramifications of an alleged plot to sabotage the Democratic party and its candidates, before and during the 1972 presidential campaign, began to be made public last week as fallout from the Watergate investigation.

Most spectacular was the indictment by a Federal grand jury in Orlando, Fla., of Donald H. Segretti, 31, the bouncy, boyish California lawyer, described by friends as adventurous but nonpolitical.

Phony Letter

Segretti, nevertheless, was charged along with Tampa accountant George Hearing, with "publishing and distributing" a letter on phony "Citizens for Muskie" stationery accusing Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) of fathering an illegitimate daughter in 1929 and being arrested for homosexuality in 1955 and 1957; and alleging that Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) another Democratic candidate in the Florida primary, was guilty of drunk driving in 1967 with a "known call girl" in his car. The fake letter was mailed during the Florida primary in March, 1972.

Robert Milton Benz, president of Tampa Young Republicans at that time, reputedly had been granted immunity from prosecution to turn state's evidence in the case.

That United States Attorney John Briggs had finally taken action against Segretti did not mollify "Scoop" Jackson. "He did nothing about this until the full bloom of Watergate had reached the point where they all were running for cover. . . ."

The Senate Select Committee agreed to look into Briggs' handling of the case along with an ever-lengthening list of other Watergate-connected matters. (See President.) (OVER)

Enter Kalmbach

Segretti reputedly had been hired by Dwight Chapin, former appointments secretary to President Nixon, to do secret political work. Allegedly this included sabo-

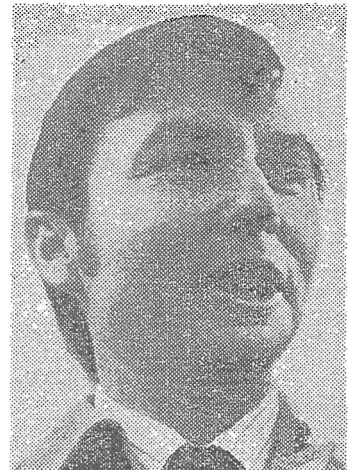
tage against Muskie in New Hampshire also. His activities apparently had at least been partially financed by money from a secret account handled by Herbert Kalmbach.

Kalmbach was the Newport Beach, Calif., lawyer who headed a big-money Republican contributors club and was chief fund raiser for President Nixon until former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans took over as finance chairman of the Committee to Re-elect the President.

Kalmbach remained Mr. Nixon's personal lawyer and a director of the private Nixon Foundation until a fortnight ago. He had resigned, however, by the time a week ago he told the grand jury in Washington, D.C., he destroyed all campaign finance records before the new contribution disclosure law took effect April 7, 1972.

Other developments last week included:

- Martha Mitchell, clutching her worn, childhood Bi-



SEGRETTI



VESCO

York Times last November 17 rebutting the Times' editorial criticizing the President's decision to mine Hai-phong.

The GAO said it was paid for by the Committee to Re-elect the President (after he was already re-elected) but contrary to law did not indicate that the committee had paid for it. Charles Colson, former Nixon special counsel, was identified as the man in the White House who edited and approved the ad.

● Murray Chotiner confirmed that he had interceded with the White House to get former Teamster Union president James Hoffa out of prison, "... frankly, I'm proud of it," he said, "... if his name weren't Hoffa he'd have been out before that." Columnist Jack Anderson had written that Chotiner pressured the White House to free Hoffa as part of a deal to get Teamster official and political support in the 1972 election. This Chotiner denied.

● Robert L. Vesco was ordered arrested by U.S. District Judge Edmund Palmiere after he refused to

The White House wanted to see Dean's documents

honor a subpoena served on him in Nassau, the Bahamas, April 18. Vesco was under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission for allegedly diverting \$224 million to his own and friends' use at the time he contributed \$250,000 to the Nixon campaign. He now was wanted for investigation on both subjects—particularly whether the campaign contribution (later returned) was meant to influence his SEC case.

● At midweek a New York grand jury indicted Mitchell, Stans, Vesco and Harry Sears, the New Jersey Republican leader and one-time employee of Vesco. They were charged with conspiring to arrange a secret \$200,000 campaign contribution to re-elect President Nixon.

● Common Cause lawyers, who had brought court action to force disclosure of pre-April 7 contributors to the Committee to Re-elect the President, said that sworn statements by Hugh Sloan Jr., committee treasurer, and finance chairman Stans, showed \$22 million was raised "secretly." The committee reported \$10.2 million "cash on hand" April 7, 1972—leaving \$11.8 million unreported. Sloan al-

legedly said records on up to \$2 million were destroyed — presumably illegal under the 1922 Corrupt Practices Act.

● Howard Hunt Jr., one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, told the grand jury that Charles Colson, former White House special counsel, had suggested he alter official cables of the 1963 period to indicate President John F. Kennedy was responsible for the assassination of Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. (Colson, in Washington, promptly denied Hunt's charge.) Reputedly the cable-tampering was done to discredit the Democrats.

● Mayor Joseph Alioto said he was now convinced the Look magazine article of September 23, 1969 trying to link him to the Mafia, and his subsequent legal troubles in Seattle, were engineered as a political measure to knock him out of contention for high office. He noted that then Attorney General John Mitchell had taken the extraordinary step of announcing the legal action himself in Washington, D.C. (The Seattle cases were won by Alioto. His libel suit against Look was inconclusive as to "malice" but conclusive that the article was in error.)

"John Mitchell had an obsession with bugging people's phones," said Alioto. "Maybe he's so henpecked at home he had to work out his aggressions with whatever he was doing at the office, which happened to be control of the most awesome power—the criminal justice process."

● The Associated Press quoted "a Justice Department source," without qualification, as saying both FBI agents and operatives of Army Intelligence were among the leaders of most so-called "subversive" or potentially troublesome groups at both the Democratic and Republican national conventions in Miami last summer.

The source said that then-Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, then-acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III and Robert Mardian, then a staff member of the Committee to Re-elect the President, met several times to discuss report of the agents.

ble, spent 1½ hours making a deposition in connection with the Democrats' \$6.4 million civil suit against officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, at her attorney Henry Rothblatt's West End avenue offices in New York. She confessed later, "You know, I've never really known anything about the Watergate case. But I'm glad its all coming out. It's like a breath of fresh air."

And later she made a late-night call to UPI reporter and friend Helen Thomas. "Mr. President should resign immediately. I think he let the country down..." she said.

● The congressional watchdog organization, General Accounting Office, accused the President's campaign committee of violating Federal law by running an advertisement in the New