

Ex-McCarthy Workers Sue Watergate Figures

By George Murphy

Two campaign staff members for former U.S. Senator Eugene J. McCarthy filed a \$220,000 damage suit in San Francisco Superior Court yesterday charging political espionage.

Named as defendants were four men who have figured prominently in the Watergate scandal.

They are Los Angeles attorney Donald Segretti, former Attorney General John Mitchell, former Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans and former personal lawyer to President Nixon, Herbert Kralmbach.

The suit was brought by San Francisco attorney Jonathan Wilcox on his own behalf and on behalf of Barbara Barron, whom Wilcox identified only as "a Los Angeles actress."

It charges that Segretti and unnamed accomplices obtained official McCarthy campaign stationery and used it to send out a spurious letter with Miss Barron's name forged as the signature.

The letter, the suit said, went to more than 1000 McCarthy supporters and urged them to vote for Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota over Senator George McGovern of South Dakota in the June 1972 California Presidential primary election.

A copy of the purported letter was attached to the filing.

It was on stationery titled "McCarthy '72" and addressed to "Dear McCarthy Delegate."

The letter said in part: "It has been decided that a win by Senator Humphrey would benefit our cause more than a win by Senator McGovern. If McGovern takes California, he will win the nomination on an early ballot in Miami.



JONATHAN WILCOX
He filed the suit

"If Humphrey wins in California, Miami will deadlock which will enable Gene McCarthy to gain the nomination; or at the very least to heavily influence the drafting of the party platform."

The letter also said: "Anything to stop McGovern would be helpful, but (in capital letters) IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE IN THE NAME OF MCCARTHY."

The suit charges that Segretti and others, "before May 19, 1972, took and carried away" from McCarthy headquarters the stationery and 1000 envelopes.

The headquarters involved was located at 528 North La Brea avenue, Los Angeles.

McCarthy withdrew his name from the race well before the June 6, 1972, primary, but his name remained on the ballot. The former Senator, in fact, endorsed McGovern in the primary race.

Segretti has been indicted by a federal court in Florida, charged with mailing fraudulent campaign literature in that state's primary.

The letter involved alleged

sexual misconduct on the part of Senator Humphrey and Henry M. Jackson, of Washington, who were opposing Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine in that election.

The Florida primary was won by Alabama Governor George Wallace.

Tampa accountant George Hearing, 40, was indicted with Segretti and pleaded guilty on May 11 to one count of distributing the letter. Segretti pleaded innocent.

The suit filed here yesterday asks for \$110,000 each for Wilcox and Miss Barron, each amount consisting of \$100,000 in punitive and \$10,000 in general damages.

Wilcox refused, at a press conference yesterday, to make any disclosures, beyond those in the suit, claiming that the matter is now in litigation.

There was some confusion about the purported purpose of the alleged letter, since it has widely been reported in the Watergate case that the Committee for the Re-election of the President preferred McGovern as the Democratic nominee.

The purported letter, however, urged a vote against McGovern in California's primary. Wilcox offered no explanation for this seeming conflict.

He identified Miss Barron's role in the campaign as "a campaign worker and a member of the 'California Committee for McCarthy'" and said he, Wilcox, was chairman of that committee.

When the story of the fraudulent letter first came to light during the primary campaign, public accounts seemed to leave the impression that some Humphrey people might have been involved in perpetrating the fraud, thereby perhaps aiding McGovern's cause.



MCCARTHY '72

528 No. La Brea Ave Los Angeles, Ca. 90036 (213) 933-5667

Dear McCarthy Delegate:

Gene McCarthy just completed a campaign tour in California and

necessary. Anything that can be done to stop McGovern would be helpful,
but IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE IN THE NAME OF MCCARTHY.

As a solid McCarthy supporter we know you will keep this letter
and our strategy confidential. Thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Berzose

A copy of the purported letter that the suit calls spurious