

SFChronicle

JUN 13 1973

Muskie Documents

Washington

A former Nixon campaign official told Senate investigators yesterday that the President's reelection unit had received copies of documents taken from Senator Edmund Muskie's presidential campaign and had turned them over to nationally syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak.

This marked the first time

beyond the original Watergate bugging arrests, that a Nixon campaign official has told of the President's reelection committee making use of documents belonging to another candidate.

Herbert L. Porter, testifying before the Senate Watergate committee, mentioned no other newsman as being the recipient of Muskie campaign documents in late 1971 and early 1972, but John J. Lindsay, of Newsweek's Washington bureau, said

yesterday that he also had received copies of documents from the Muskie campaign.

ENVELOPES

Both Novak and Lindsay said the documents had arrived in plain envelopes on two or three occasions, with no indication of the sender. Lindsay said the material obviously had come from the Republicans. Novak said the material "obviously was provided by someone within

Senator Muskie's campaign who did not have the best interests of Senator Muskie at heart."

Porter did not name the source of the documents, which had been photographed from the originals. He said filmstrips containing copies of documents as well as transcripts of the photographed documents, had been provided to him by Jeb Stuart Magruder, then the deputy campaign manager, and Kenneth C. Rietz, then the campaign youth

Given to Press

director, in November and early December 1971.

On copied document, he said, "was a staff memo ... from one of the campaign officials to the senator (Muskie) or perhaps to the campaign manager, saying that the senator's role ... as chairman of a subcommittee ... could be used as a great front to go to California and hold tax hearings that would be a great visual event for Senator Muskie and all at the taxpayers' expense and he could get a lot of value

for his campaign." He said Magruder told him to send a copy of the memo to Evans and Novak.

COLUMN

The memo was used in the Evans and Novak column of Dec. 12, 1971. Novak said the item was thoroughly checked out for authenticity with Muskie staffers before it was printed.

Novak said he and Evans also received other unmarked, unsigned material on the Muskie campaign,

which he felt came from the same source. Much of the information, he said, was "very trivial." The only other information used from the anonymous source was printed in a March 12, 1972, column after first checking with Muskie staffers, Novak said.

That column quoted a Feb. 22, 1972, letter to Muskie from his aide, Donald E. Nicoll, outlining a project to hire a man who once was a ghostwriter for Governor Nelson Rockefeller to write

Muskie's personal journal of the 1972 campaign. The columnists commented that "a professionally ghosted Muskie journal might seem to violate the 'Trust Muskie' campaign theme."

Lindsay said yesterday that he received information and documents in unmarked envelopes on two or three occasions in late 1971, but that "none of the information was very startling and we never used any of it in Newsweek."

Washington Post Service