

California Trio Adds To Pressure on Nixon

By Vera Glaser and Malvina Stephenson
San Clemente

HERE in what has always been friendly Nixon territory, three sour notes can be heard.

They come from a disgruntled former congressman; the ex-wife of a top presidential intimate; and a crack investigative reporter on a local paper.

• Former Representative John G. Schmitz claims he was defeated in the 1972 Republican primary by Watergate "dirty tricks" and has asked Senator Sam Ervin's committee to probe the congressional races.

Schmitz cites an illegal anonymous letter and a "loan" to his opponent, allegedly from the Committee to Re-elect the President (CRP).

• Mimi Chotiner, a sharp-tongued former model and the most recently divorced wife of long-time Nixon adviser Murray Chotiner, is telling everyone within earshot that Watergate is the climax of Murray's tactics that started here in 1946.

She promises to tell all in a forthcoming book titled "Until Watergate" or "No Honor Among Thieves."

• John Blackburn of the nearby Santa Ana Register, whose stories on the financing of Nixon's San Clemente home forced the White House to divulge long-withheld facts, is pursuing other embarrassing avenues of inquiry.

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Right-winger Schmitz was the President's congressman for two terms, but relations

soured when he fought Nixon's China and economic policies.

Representative Andrew Hinshaw, who defeated Schmitz in the primary and won the congressional seat, said Pat (Mrs. Robert J.) Hitt urged him to make the race. Mrs. Hitt, a Nixon insider who until recently was an HEW secretary, confirmed that.

Hinshaw's publicist, Chip Cleary, former partner of Robert Hitt, has been sued for \$2 million by Earl H. Carraway, who also ran in the GOP primary. Carraway claims that Cleary wrote the anonymous letter attacking him personally, but calculated to solidify pro-Nixon strength for Hinshaw and insure Schmitz' defeat.

Schmitz also believes that Cleary's reported loan to Hinshaw actually came from the CRP. He claimed that Hitt obtained a \$25,000 loan in 1972 from the CRP for a Maryland congressional candidate who committed suicide recently after the loan-contribution was revealed.

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Mimi Chotiner is also eager to latch on to headlines. Despite attempts to keep her former husband out of sight in Nixon's 1968 and 1972 campaigns, he had an active role, and Mimi insists he is now advising Nixon on Watergate.

Puffing a small cigar, she observed, "Nixon just doesn't have any political pros around him. When it gets to the nitty gritty, they have to get The Old Devil (her term for Chotiner) back from whatever rock they stuck him under."

A sample of what her book will contain: Mimi claims she was present in 1969 when Nixon's personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, told

Chotiner he had just turned down the position of under-secretary of commerce in order to build up his newly-organized law firm which was to become a gold mine, some say because of its White House tie.

John Blackburn's exposés have made it hot for Kalmbach, as well as for his close friend and neighbor, the President's brother, Don, who is accused of using White House influence in his business deals.

Blackburn says he broke the story on Kalmbach's secret million-dollar "slush fund" here, a revelation that cost the lawyer his position as secretary of the Richard

Nixon Foundation.

Blackburn first hit the national news wires with a story obtained from Senator Edward Kennedy's investigators. It suggested leftover 1968 campaign funds were used to purchase Nixon's San Clemente house.

The story put pressure on the White House, which ultimately disclosed that Nixon's rich friend Robert Abplanalp had provided most of the cash for the deal.

Then came a greater embarrassment — Blackburn's story that the government had paid nearly \$500,000 for improvements at the western White House. Subsequent stories have escalated the figure.



JOHN SCHMITZ
Anonymous letter



HERBERT KALMBACH
Secret fund