

A Secret Blacklist Of GOP Senators



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IN ADDITION to the lists of "enemies," the White House also kept a secret blacklist of Republican Senators who displeased President Nixon.

This was no mere informational list, according to White House sources, but an "action" list of Republican recalcitrants to be punished. Those on the list were subject to retaliation, which ranged from petty humiliations to political reprisals.

"We called it the s--- list," said one source. "I knew sooner or later somebody was going to find out about it. Some of us privately opposed it."

The list was drawn up by staff chief Bob Haldeman who circulated it by hand to his top aides, with orders that they copy it in their own handwriting, not Xerox it.

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ON THE LIST at various times since 1969 were Senators Jacob Javits (N.Y.), Mark Hatfield (Ore.), Clifford Case (N.J.), Charles "Mac" Mathias (Md.), Richard Schweiker (Pa.), Charles Percy (Ill.), Lowell Weicker (Conn.), and former Senator Charles Goodell (N.Y.).

In trying to recall the names, our sources said they thought they also remembered Senators William Packwood (Ore.), William Saxbe (Ohio), and James Pearson (Kans.). The sources were struck that Massachusetts' Senator Edward Brooke, who often strayed from the Nixon line, was never put on the list.

"He never made it for the obvious reason," said our sources. Brooke is the Senate's only black member and the White House didn't want to alienate him.

The Senators who were listed were supposed to be denied all the White House perquisites, or "perks" as they were called by the President's aides. For example, those on the list were generally barred from White House dinners and other state functions. They were cut off from campaign assistance and patronage jobs. They couldn't even always arrange special White House tours for their constituents, a traditional White House courtesy extended to members of Congress.

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THE BLACKLIST was updated every three to five months. Names were added and removed, depending upon the political behavior of the Senators on the GOP side. But usually, the list contained from six to 12 names.

On the days the list was updated, it stirred whispered gossip among the insiders who knew about it. "We compared notes on what one another were doing to people on the list," said a source.

Asked why no similar list was kept of House members, our sources said: "There were just too many of them to keep track of their voting. We had to play the House by ear."

Footnote: Efforts to reach Haldeman for comment through his lawyers were unsuccessful.