

# Next Watergate Witness

Herbert Warren Kalmbach

NYTimes By EVERETT R. HOLLES JUL 16 1973

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NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., July 15—The public is scheduled to have its first opportunity this week to see and hear the man who has been the most mysterious figure among the strangely assorted cast of characters in the Watergate affair.

Prior to his appearance before the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, Herbert Warren Kalmbach, the

Man  
in the  
News

"Mr. Moneybags" of alleged Watergate cover-ups and Nixon campaign machinations, has maintained an urbane aloofness while being drawn deeper and deeper into the Watergate web.

Unlike most of those implicated with him, the 51-year-old California lawyer, who personally collected more than \$20-million for President Nixon's 1968 and 1972 campaigns, appeared to be little concerned about his public image.

Thus far, he has never appeared before a television camera or talked with a reporter about his role in the scandals, either to protest his innocence, challenge his accusers or to shift the major blame to others.

Many of his fellow members of the Orange County Lincoln Club here, which regards itself a coterie of Southern California's Republican elite, still agree with the club secretary, Paul P. Palmer, that Mr. Kalmbach is a "man of the highest personal and professional integrity."

## Followed Directions

They insist that he merely followed directions from men high up in the White House and paid out money as ordered, although perhaps somewhat naively, because of his loyalty to the President.

One club member said Mr. Kalmbach became "disgusted" last September at what he had finally come to regard as shabby and perhaps criminal activities on the part of his Republican colleagues, and balked at having any further part in them. It was not until last January, however, that the final break came.

Even then, he maintained an almost stoic silence in public.

Instead, he offered himself as a prosecution witness against his accused fellow conspirators, particularly John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's former chief domestic adviser, and H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff. But Mr. Kalmbach neither asked for nor was promised immunity from prosecution.

## Divided Opinion

There is divided opinion here in his hometown as to whether Mr. Kalmbach's decision to "turn state's evidence" was dictated by hopes of escaping a prison sentence for obstructing justice or for corrupt practices, or whether it was an act of atonement for his part in the scandal.

Last May 1, soon after the disclosure that Mr. Kalmbach was ready to be a prosecution witness, the White House announced his summary dismissal as Mr. Nixon's personal West Coast attorney.

For nearly 10 years Mr.

Kalmbach had labored to promote the President's political fortunes, traveling throughout the United States and abroad collecting campaign contributions from corporations, ambassadors and wealthy persons.

He handled Mr. Nixon's 1969 acquisition of his \$1.4-million San Clemente estate so deftly that there exists no public record showing the President's interest in the trust-held property.

Mr. Kalmbach has also been a member of the executive board of the Richard M. Nixon Foundation, set up to build a memorial library and museum with popular subscriptions.

## Courteous Manner

A man of courteous manner and social grace that has made him popular in this seaside community of yacht-racing millionaires, Mr. Kalmbach has both served and been served by his association with the President. His law business has prospered; he and his law associates have such profitable clients as United Air Lines, Atlantic Richfield, the Music Corporation of America and the Marriott Corporation, which employs the President's brother, Donald.

Mr. Kalmbach was born in Port Huron, Mich., on Oct. 19, 1921. He attended public schools there and served in World War II as a Navy flier. Later, he attended the University of Southern California.

While an undergraduate at the university, he married Barbara Helen Forbush on June 19, 1948. A year later, he entered the University of Southern California Law School where he became a close friend of Robert H. Finch, whom he would help in 1958 to become California's Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Finch moved on to become Mr. Nixon's Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and later served as a White House adviser.

The Kalmbachs have two sons and a daughter—Kurt, Kenneth and Lauren Ann—and live in an attractive but not ostentatious home on Santiago Drive here.

For the last two years, however, his family has seen little of Mr. Kalmbach.

## 'Hardly Ever Home'

"He's hardly ever at home, even on weekends," said Mrs. Kalmbach. "He always seems to be off traveling somewhere and I never have a chance to discuss things with him."

From law school, Mr. Kalmbach went to work for the Los Angeles Title Insurance Company for five years. He then moved to Newport Beach in 1957 and set up law practice, but with no great initial success.

In 1962, he returned to the insurance business in Phoenix, Ariz., an association that lasted two years before the family moved back to Newport Beach, where he went into the real estate business for a brief period.

This was at a time when the Republican party in California was in a shambles after Mr. Nixon's too stunning defeats—for President in 1960 and for Governor of



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Social grace made him popular with millionaires.

(Mr. Kalmbach at the Bob Hope Desert Golf Classic in Palm Springs, Calif., in February.)

California two years later. In 1964, Mr. Kalmbach was introduced to Mr. Nixon by Robert Finch.

Mr. Nixon, then practicing law in New York, was impressed by Mr. Kalmbach, particularly when Mr. Kalmbach joined a group of other lawyers in setting up the Newport Beach firm of Kalmbach, DeMarco, Knapp and Chillingworth in 1967.

## Fund-Raising Ability

At the President's behest, Mr. Kalmbach became deputy finance chairman under Maurice H. Stans in the 1968 Presidential campaign. Because of Mr. Kalmbach's ability to obtain large campaign contributions, he was reappointed to the same job last year in the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Mr. Kalmbach was not only an accomplished fund raiser, often using the exclusive Lincoln Club of Orange County as a "finder" for big contributors, but he also was custodian of a large sum of money left over from the 1968 Presidential campaign—money which was reportedly used to finance many of the re-election committee's "dirty tricks" activities in 1972. More covert funds came into his custody in last year's campaign.

At one time, according to Government investigators, Mr. Kalmbach held more than \$500,000 in secret party funds. He has been accused of distributing at least half of this amount through intermediaries as "hush money" to those arrested in the Watergate robbery and their lawyers.

Friends of the troubled lawyer report that, in their infrequent meetings with him recently, he has seemed "his same gracious self" and rarely if ever has mentioned Watergate.

One acquaintance quoted Mr. Kalmbach as saying he was certain that the President was unaware of what was going on "until the fat was in the fire," adding a bitter reference to Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman as "arrogant bunglers and betrayers of the President."