

Spy Charge Aimed At Senators' Aide

Washington

GOP national chairman George Bush charged yesterday that Carmine S. Bellino, chief investigator for the Senate Watergate committee, may have directed a spy campaign against Republicans in 1960.

Bush released three affidavits, including one from a man who died last week but who had sworn under oath that he was confident that a spy team had bugged the hotel room of the then Vice President Richard M. Nixon shortly before his nationally televised debates with Senator John F. Kennedy.

Bellino said he worked for Mr. Kennedy in 1960 but not to gather intelligence. He said the charges were "totally false . . . they're really scraping the bottom of the barrel. I guess they're trying to take attention from Ehrlichman."

Bush said the Watergate committee should look into the allegations against Bellino because, if they are true, "a taint would most certainly be attached to some of the committee's work."

Bush said he learned of the allegations from Jerris Leonard, a former assistant attorney general, and put him on the GOP payroll to probe them further.

BELIEF

Bush refused to say if he believes the allegations and said he couldn't personally vouch for the accuracy of the affidavits.

He said he informed the Senate Watergate committee of his information last week and was reserving the right to use it as he saw fit.

Bush made a point of saying he had not informed the White House or the Committee for the Re-election of the President of his information adding that "it seemed better that we go it on our own."



AP Wirephoto

CARMINE S. BELLINO
Watergate prober

AFFIDAVITS

If the three affidavits are true, Bush said, it indicates that "the Democrats did . . . spy on an official of the Republican National Committee and that they approached an inspector of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department to gain his cooperation in bugging Republican rooms at the then Wardman Park Hotel.

"Fair play dictates that the U.S. Senate immediately conduct an investigation into the charges contained in the affidavits," Bush said, with the probe being conducted "before the television cam-

eras with the appropriate parties under oath."

The affidavits are from Joseph Shimon, a private investigator in Washington for the last decade and a former policeman here; from John W. Leon, a veteran of 15 years as an investigator before his death last week, and Edward Murray Jones — now in the Philippines — who worked for Bellino in the Kennedy campaign for 1960.

FINANCES

Bellino is serving as the Senate committee's expert on financial matters, tracing the cash funds that appear over and over in the case.

For years he served in a similar capacity for the Senate Permanent Investigations subcommittee.

Bellino is a former FBI agent and an acknowledged expert in accounting and financial investigations.

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