

# State Bar May

## Act Against

# Nixon, Aides

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The State Bar of California is considering preliminary disciplinary proceedings involving President Nixon and five other California lawyers linked to the Watergate scandal.

The bar's board of governors voted at a meeting here Friday to initiate formal proceedings — beginning with an investigation — against the six, sources told The Examiner.

Bar President Leonard S. Janofsky of Los Angeles last night called the report "absolutely untrue." Asked whether the governors discussed the matter at all during a three-day meeting here last week, Janofsky declined comment.

Examiner sources said that in addition to the President, proceedings will be begun against:

- John Ehrlichman, Nixon's former chief domestic affairs advisor. Ehrlichman formerly practiced law in Seattle, but he received his law degree from Stanford University and is a member

of both the California and Washington bars.

- Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's former personal attorney.

- Donald H. Segretti, a Los Angeles attorney and former Treasury Department lawyer under indictment for alleged "dirty tricks" during the Florida presidential primary election in 1972.

- Gordon G. Strachan, former aide to H. R. Halde- man, the President's resigned chief of staff.

- Robert C. Mardian, former political coordinator for the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

According to Examiner sources, 14 of the 15 members of the bar's board of governors attended the meeting Friday and engaged in "bitter" debate before a slim majority voted to proceed with the action.

A prime issue in the board's discussion, the sources said, was whether or not to include the Presi-

dent in the resolution. He was, finally, when the board majority felt "there was a sufficient amount of complaints that had come to the bar to justify a formal investigation" of Nixon, according to a source.

Details of the board of governors' lengthy resolution were not available, but The Examiner was told it dealt extensively with Watergate.

The resolution will set in motion standard bar association procedures, beginning with a formal investigation.

Offenses for which the bar could discipline the attorneys include criminal violations and unethical conduct. Possible penalties range up to and including disbarment.

The sources said the President and the five other attorneys were to be notified of the board action by special delivery letter tomorrow.

Ehrlichman, who is re-

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suming his testimony before the Senate Watergate committee tomorrow, resigned from the President's staff April 30.

He is already being investigated for possible disciplinary action by the Washington State Bar Association, as well as by a Los Angeles grand jury for his alleged role in the burglary of the Beverly Hills office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

### Their Activities

Kalmbach, of Los Angeles, has acknowledged raising more than \$200,000 while Nixon's personal attorney to pay the original Watergate burglary defendants.

Segretti is charged in Florida with being the author of phony smear letters intended to discredit then Democratic presidential contender Sen. Edmund Muskie.

Federal investigators have said Segretti traveled through several primary states last year under an assumed name and recruited men to disrupt Democratic campaigns.

Strachan, a native of Berkeley and graduate of the University of Southern California, received his law degree from Boalt Hall at the University of California at Berkeley. He has admitted destroying two days after the Watergate burglary a memo in which he told Halde- man of a "sophisticated political intelligence plan" adopted by the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

### Mardian's Admission

Mardian, a former assistant attorney general, has testified he stole logs of White House ordered telephone taps from the FBI and took them to the White House on the direct orders of President Nixon.

He has been named in news accounts as having given orders to destroy evidence after burglars were caught in the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate.