

# Safire Sees 'Harassment' On Columns

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Former White House speechwriter William L. Safire, now a columnist for The New York Times, charged yesterday that reports that he solicited "services" for the Nixon re-election campaign from a business executive amounted to "harassment" for columns he had written.

"This kind of harassment is bound to continue and it's not going to shut me up," Safire said when asked about the reports.

Safire declined to elaborate, other than to note that he recently had written two columns alleging that Columbia Broadcasting System records executives paid off disc jockeys, sometimes with hard drugs, to air their products.

In New York, Richard Salant, president of CBS News, appraised of Safire's comment, said:

"If what he's trying to do is imply that we had anything to do with leaking or circulating that story, he's completely wrong. I hope the rest of his columns are more accurate. He's not a journalist, he's a columnist."

Safire acknowledged that last year he had approached Martin S. Davis, a senior vice president of Gulf & Western Industries Inc., at the request of Herbert W. Kalmbach, then President Nixon's personal lawyer and a key Nixon fund-raiser.

But when Davis was not immediately responsive, Safire said, he informed Kalmbach that he didn't care to pursue the matter and didn't think Kalmbach should either.

"I feel I did the right thing in advising Kalmbach not to have anything to do with this" Safire said. He said he had never before or since engaged in fund-raising or soliciting services in lieu of contributions for a political campaign.

Gulf & Western owns Paramount Pictures, and presumably the services the Nixon re-election campaign hoped to get was the production of a campaign film.

Davis confirmed that Safire and Kalmbach both had approached him, but he said yesterday that both had talked to him in terms of money contributions, not services.

In Safire's first column discussing CBS, dated last June 21, the former White House aide suggested that CBS handle this story on the air the same way it has covered the Watergate investigation and hearings.

According to Salant, CBS News has assigned the same investigations unit that worked on the Watergate case to the drug reports of which Safire wrote. It has not completed its work, Salant said.

CBS News did cover briefly a press conference in which Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-R-N.Y.) referred to the same allegations, Salant said.

The first accounts that Safire had asked Davis to contribute to the Nixon campaign appeared in yesterday's editions of The Times and The Wall Street Journal.