

Journalists Who Spied For Nixon

Washington

President Nixon's re-election campaign paid journalists for secret reports on his Democratic rivals for almost two years before the 1972 election, Murray M. Chotiner said yesterday.

Chotiner, a longtime political associate of Mr. Nixon and a former White House aide, said he had hired an unnamed reporter "in early 1971" to begin monitoring Mr. Nixon's potential challengers.

When that man "got another assignment" in journalism in the fall of 1972, he was replaced by Licianne Cummings Goldberg, the \$1000-a-week "spy" on Senator George McGovern's campaign, whose identity was revealed Sunday.

Chotiner, who said in a telephone interview there was "nothing underhanded or illegal" about the arrangement, said he would be glad to turn over the reports he received from his two informants to the Senate Watergate Investigating Committee.

Mrs. Goldberg, a former Washington public relations woman, represented herself to McGovern campaign aides as a free-lance journalist planning a book on the campaign.

Chotiner said that he paid Mrs. Goldberg and her anonymous predecessor \$1000 a week plus all expenses for the work, but said he was "definitely not looking for dirty stuff" on the President's opposition.

"We couldn't care less what those people were doing in their off hours," he said.

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