

Gurney Slows Report on Bellino

By Peter A. Jay

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Republican charges that Carmine Bellino, chief investigator of the Senate select Watergate committee, engaged in illegal electronic surveillance of Richard Nixon's 1960 presidential campaign are still unsubstantiated, Democratic sources in the Senate said yesterday.

A three-member subcommittee assigned to look into the allegations, first raised by Republican National Chairman George Bush, has been able to find no solid supporting evidence, the sources said. But in order to satisfy Sen. Edward J. Gurney of Florida, the only Republican on the

subcommittee, the sources said the investigation would continue until a unanimous report could be issued.

"There is one senator on the committee who has developed a sudden interest in fine detail," said one source, making it clear he was referring to Gurney. "But the chairman said he could chase shadows as long as he wants to."

Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.) is the subcommittee chairman. The third member is Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii). The subcommittee has met only once since Congress returned from recess. Talmadge has told the full Watergate committee that he is not ready

to run in a report of the subcommittee's investigation until at least one more witness is questioned under oath.

Bush, in making the accusations against Bellino, produced three affidavits from people involved in the 1960 campaign describing what they said was electronic surveillance.

One of those signing the affidavits is dead and the other two have been interviewed by the Talmadge subcommittee.

The Republican National Committee, through a special counsel hired to investigate Bellino's activities, maintains that even if Bellino never did any electronic spying in 1960, he planned to do so.

"Whether or not the plan was executed is immaterial," the special counsel—former Assistant Attorney General Terris Leonard—told the Associated Press.

Bellino, who has been close to the Kennedy family for many years, has admitted physical surveillance of the Nixon campaign on behalf of the Democrats in 1960. He has denied participating in any form of electronic eavesdropping.

After Bush made the charges against Bellino and produced the affidavits, 22 Republican members of the Senate urged the Watergate committee to suspend its chief investigator.



CARMINE BELLINO ... no evidence found

Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.), the committee chairman, declined to do so unless the Talmadge subcommittee decided Bush's charges were valid.