

GOP's Campaign Spy Worked Three Camps

By Lawrence Meyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

Michael W. McMinoway, a political spy for all seasons, told the Senate select Watergate committee yesterday how he provided information for pay on Democratic candidates to the Nixon re-election committee but also provided other Democrats with inside information on the candidates for whom he was working.

In his movements, which took him into the campaigns of three Democratic presidential aspirants, McMinoway said that he observed campaign workers for Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.Dak.) preparing signs that were later used in heckling Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), during a 1972 appearance in Milwaukee during the primary campaign.

McMinoway, the fifth Nixon re-election committee spy to appear before the Senate panel, also described how he was able to obtain a security job near McGovern's hotel room during the July 1972 Democratic convention in Miami. McMinoway said he was asked by a re-election committee official after the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in to get a job working for McGovern.

Throughout his testimony McMinoway, a native of Louisville, insisted he had done nothing illegal or unethical and that he had not misrepresented himself while working as a spy for the Nixon re-election committee, even though he gave a false name while working for the campaign of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.).

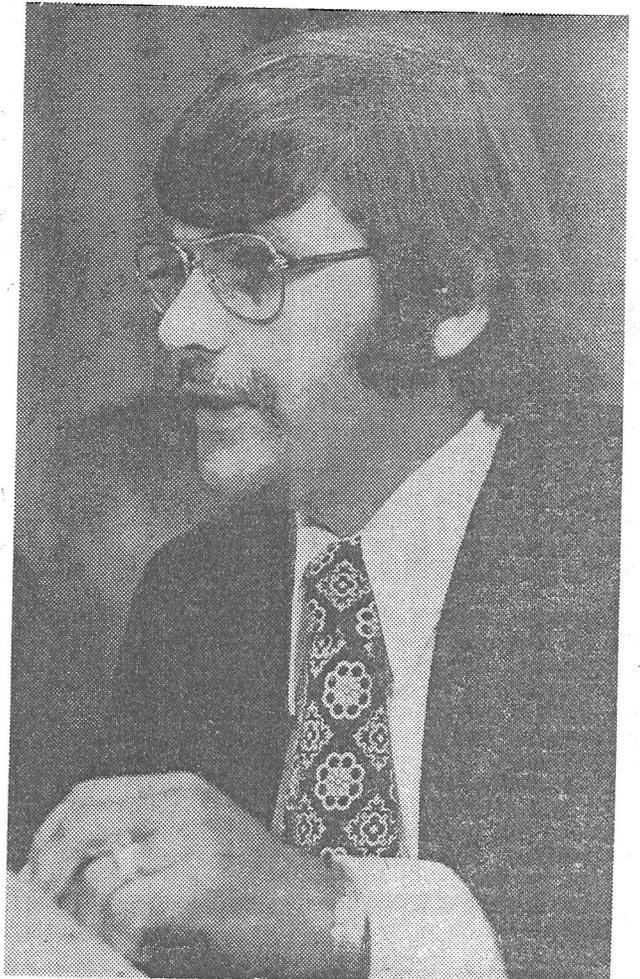
In the period that he worked as a spy—from February until July 1972—McMinoway worked for the Muskie campaign in Wisconsin, the Humphrey campaigns in Pennsylvania and California and for McGovern at the Democratic National Convention.

McMinoway said he was contacted in February by a friend, Martin Blackwell of Washington, who asked him if he was interested in working in the campaign. When he said he was, McMinoway testified, he was contacted by a man identifying himself as Jason Rainier, later identified as Roger Stone, an employee of the Nixon re-election committee. Stone, McMinoway said, told him that he represented a group of "concerned citizens" interested in the 1972 election.

After agreeing to a salary of \$1,500 per month, McMinoway said, he began working for the Muskie campaign in Milwaukee. At the same time, McMinoway told the committee, he contacted the McGovern campaign in Milwaukee.

During one visit, McMinoway said, he saw McGovern workers, supervised by national youth coordinator Tom Southwick, preparing placards to be used in a demonstration against Muskie. This group of people later appeared at a Muskie speech and disrupted it, McMinoway said.

McMinoway said he was told by Stone to collect information on the scheduling of the candidate for whom he was working for and to



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Michael McMinoway said he worked three camps.

send it to a post office box in Washington. This information, under the code name Sedan Chair II, was circulated within the re-election committee and the White House, where chief of staff H. R. Haldeman saw it, according to previous testimony. McMinoway said, however, that he was unaware of his code name at the time.

After working for Muskie in Milwaukee, McMinoway went on to Philadelphia and presented himself as a volunteer for Humphrey. In addition to sending reports to Washington, McMinoway testified, he occasionally took action to impair the effectiveness of the Humphrey campaign, among other things mixing up card files to cause unnecessary work and dismissing other volunteer workers who were needed to perform tasks, he testified.

Despite these efforts, McMinoway apparently impressed the Humphrey organization, which sent him on to California where he continued working for Humphrey.

After the Watergate break-in, McMinoway said he was called to Washington and assured by Stone and a man identified only as "Mr. M" that nothing he was doing was illegal. McMinoway said he agreed to take "one last assignment" and apparently had no trouble getting himself assigned by the McGovern staff to help guard the area near McGovern's suite in the Doral Hotel at the Miami Beach convention.

While working on McGovern's security detail, McMinoway said he saw prostitutes or "at least people with low moral standards"

in a hospitality room in the Doral Hotel. McMinoway said the McGovern staff "did in fact, I am sure, know that these people existed in the building and they never instructed us to remove these people from the building."

On one occasion, McMinoway testified, a delegate to the convention visited McGovern campaign manager Gary Hart in the Doral Hotel and then left with two women whom McMinoway described as prostitutes.

McMinoway testified that a McGovern staff member instructed him to drive the delegate and the two women to the Playboy Plaza Hotel in a McGovern staff car. During the ride, with the delegate and the two women in the back seat, the women "exhibited some, what I considered immoral activities," McMinoway said. He was not asked for details.

Although McMinoway's testimony about the alleged prostitutes was first elicited by chief committee counsel Samuel Dash, minority counsel Fred Thompson spent most of his 14 minutes of questioning asking McMinoway about the women.

Under later questioning by committee vice chairman Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), McMinoway conceded that he did not know if the women were, in fact, prostitutes and could not say whether the delegate's visit to Hart had any relationship to his departure with the women. "He could have met them coming in or going out," McMinoway said.

The committee also heard yesterday from Frederick J. Taugher, southern California campaign coordinator

for McGovern in 1972. Taugher told the committee that in September 1972, he had allowed organizers of an antiwar coalition to use McGovern's telephones to organize a protest demonstration against President Nixon when he appeared in Los Angeles on Sept. 27. The demonstration, according to all accounts, was basically nonviolent.

Committee chairman Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) said yesterday he has received a subpoena to testify in the trial of two former Cabinet members, Attorney General John N.

Mitchell and Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, in New York. They are charged with perjury, conspiracy and obstruction of justice in connection with a \$200,000 campaign contribution made by international financier Robert L. Vesco.

The Senate approved a resolution permitting Ervin to testify and to bring documents sought in the subpoena.

The hearings are scheduled to resume today at 10 a.m. with the testimony of Frank Mankiewicz, McGovern's national political coordinator in the 1972 campaign.