

Director of McGovern's Campaign Says Acts of Sabotage

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 11—Frank Mankiewicz, who was Senator George McGovern's political director last year, said today that the sabotage activities paid for by President Nixon's re-election committee had succeeded in sharply dividing the candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

"What was created by the sabotage effort was an unparalleled atmosphere of rancor and discord within the Democratic party," Mr. Mankiewicz told the Senate Watergate committee.

Had it not been for the divisiveness, Mr. Mankiewicz

he was playing on one candidate were the work of another candidate.

Mr. Mankiewicz said that if Senator Edmund S. Muskie had endorsed Senator McGovern's candidacy when the Maine Senator pulled out of the race in the spring, it would have made Mr. McGovern's road to the nomination smoother.

'Planned Sabotage'

Furthermore, Mr. Mankiewicz argued, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota might not have challenged Mr. McGovern in the California primary "had he not become convinced—because of the Nixon

campaign's planned sabotage—that Senator McGovern's campaign had attacked him unfairly in May."

"Both Senator McGovern and Senator Humphrey were led to believe that the other was involved in a vicious campaign of distortion and vilification, and any re-uniting of factions—normally the course in a Democratic campaign after the primaries—became far more difficult," Mr. Mankiewicz told the committee.

Mr. Mankiewicz and another former McGovern aide, Richard Stearns, who heard the Senator's campaign in the Western states, said that the McGovern

had not engaged in any skulduggery against its opponents.

Mr. Stearns acknowledged that antiwar demonstrators planning what resulted in a peaceful protest against President Nixon in Los Angeles had been allowed to use Senator McGovern's telephones. But he aggressively attacked the committee for trying to quate that with the activities of Segretti and his associates.

"The attempt to find fault where there is none, to lay blame where it does not belong, to whitewash the guilty by blackening the innocent is a pathetic piece of political game-manship," he asserted.

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Divided the Democrats

Fred D. Thompson, the chief Republican counsel on the committee, apparently took offense at Mr. Stearns's remarks, and challenged the former McGovern aide, who is now a Harvard law school student, to name the person he believed was conducting a partisan "fishing expedition."

Thompson Took Offense

Mr. Stearns avoided answering that question but remained combative throughout the questioning.

Mr. Mankiewicz, however, with the polished stage presence of a trained performer, directed his attacks on President Nixon's staff.

The illegal activities of Mr. Segretti and others that have been reported to the committee, Mr. Mankiewicz said, were not normal in American Presidential campaigns. They might be "politics as usual for Nixon campaigns," he asserted, "but not for any other Democratic or Republican Presidential campaign of which I have any knowledge."

Following today's testimony, the committee recessed its public hearings for two weeks. When they resume, the committee is expected to call the managers of other campaigns and then turn to an exploration of campaign financing.



Associated Press

Richard Stearns, former campaign aide to Senator George McGovern, testifying before the Senate Watergate committee.

declared, "the course of the campaign might have been different."

Donald H. Segretti, who organized the dirty tricks against the Democrats, told the committee last week that his intention was to get the Democratic candidates warring among themselves. To that end, Segretti testified that he had made it appear that the tricks