

Effects of Sabotage on Muskie Campaign Told

Washington

Political sabotage directed by President Nixon's re-election committee took a toll on Senator Edmund S. Muskie's unsuccessful battle to win the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination, Muskie's campaign manager testified yesterday.

Berl I. Bernhard told the Senate Watergate Committee that the Nixon committee's "unceasing efforts to unhorse" the Maine senator

"took a toll in the form of diverting our resources, changing our schedules, altering our political approaches and being thrown on the defensive."

Bernhard testified that Muskie's most vital political strategy document and polls of two key Democratic primary states were apparently stolen from campaign headquarters.

TRICKS

Bernhard testified that tricks, which ranged from

the placing of false advertisements to hiring hecklers to drown out speeches, generated suspicion, rancor and animosity between the staffs of the Democratic contenders.

"Internally," he said, "they resulted in demoralizing distrust, in erroneous accusations by me of my own staff members for what I believed were their indiscretions and even their treachery."

Bernhard said all of this impeded a coordinated campaign effort and helped to undermine Muskie's image with the public and with potential large campaign contributors.

He cited a catalogue of sabotage and espionage, much of which has been attributed to the work of operatives hired by political saboteur Donald Segretti.

DERAILED

The campaign of dirty tricks ended only when Nixon political operatives decided that the Muskie campaign had been derailed, Bernhard said.

Bernhard said that in late August, 1971, one of only two copies of a vital, 31-page



AP Wirephoto

BERL I. BERNHARD
Campaign manager

Muskie scheduling document disappeared from a campaign official's desk and later was found lying on the campaign's copying machine, "the staples having been removed, apparently for copying."

In another major theft, Bernhard said, the entire Muskie New Jersey and New Hampshire primary polls were stolen from the desk of a Muskie polling expert.

"It was a document of real value to any opponent and it would certainly have been of value to the Committee to Re-elect the President if they were pursuing a program, as they appeared to have been, of embarrassing Senator Muskie."

Clark MacGregor, former chairman of Mr. Nixon's committee, is scheduled to be today's witness.

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