

# ***News Media Moves By Nixon Disclosed***

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**By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM**

Special to The New York Times

**WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—**

Over a one-month period in the fall of 1969, President Nixon made 21 separate requests to his top aides to take action to counter what the President saw as unfavorable news coverage, according to a memorandum made public tonight by Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr.

The memorandum, written by Jeb Stuart Magruder, then a White House assistant, to H. R. Haldeman, who was the Presidential chief of staff, said that "shotgunning the media" was not effective.

It suggested that the Admin-

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# News Media Moves by Nixon Listed

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Administration could better "get the media" if it used such tactics as harassment by the Internal Revenue Service and the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department.

Attached to the memorandum was a log of the President's requests between the middle of September and the middle of October, 1969.

The material was disclosed by Senator Weicker, a Connecticut Republican, who is a member of the Senate Watergate committee, on Martin Agronsky's "Evening Edition," a television program on the Eastern Educational Network.

The memorandum was given to the Watergate committee by Magruder.

Mr. Weicker said tonight that there was "no way to know if Haldeman acted on the memo," but that "it shows the type of thinking that was going on at the White House."

## 'Vicuous Reporting'

Some of the requests by the President, according to the log, were broad-based, such as an instruction to Herbert G. Klein, the White House Communications Director, to "take appropriate action to counter biased TV coverage of the Adm. over the summer."

Other entries in the log suggested action against a particular reporter. For instance, Mr. Nixon asked Peter M. Flanigan, then a top assistant, to "take action to counter" a report by Dan Rather, a Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, that Gen Lewis B. Hershey, director of Selective Service, was being dismissed because of anti-war protests.

The Magruder memorandum shows that Mr. Nixon's deep concern over news coverage was present in the early days of his Administration.

In his first term, Mr. Nixon tended to leave public criticism of the news media to others, especially former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. But last Friday, at his news conference, he attacked the television networks himself.

"I have never heard or seen such outrageous, vicious, distorted reporting in 27 years of public life," the President said.

## 'Shotgun vs. Rifle'

In some cases, Mr. Nixon sought to promote his activities. Thus, he asked Mr. Klein to generate letters to Newsweek magazine "mentioning the President's tremendous reception in Miss. and [at] last Sat. Miami Dolphin football game."

In other requests, Mr. Nixon reportedly tried to use the press to attack political opponents. For example, he asked Mr. Klein to "have The Chicago Tribune hit Senator [Charles H.] Percy hard on his ties with the peace group."

During the month covered by the log, the President asked that complaints about coverage be registered with all three commercial television networks, Time, Newsweek, Life

and Jack Anderson, the columnist.

His requests went not only to White House staff members concerned with domestic affairs, such as Mr. Klein, Mr. Flanigan, John D. Ehrlichman, then the White House counsel, and Patrick J. Buchanan, a speechwriter, but also to Henry A. Kissinger, then the President's national security adviser.

Mr. Kissinger was asked about a column by Mr. Anderson that contended that some United States military officers were sabotaging President Nixon's policies.

In no case, was any specific action against reporters, magazines or networks suggested.

Magruder wrote in his memorandum that he believed that "double or triple" the number of the President's requests concerning the media had been made by others in the White House.

In the memorandum, entitled "The Shotgun versus the Rifle," Magruder, who pleaded guilty last summer to obstruction of

justice in the Watergate case, said "this continual daily attempt to get the media" was "very unfruitful and wasteful of our time."

Magruder suggested that "a major impact" could be made by doing the following:

¶Having the Federal Communications Commission begin "an official monitoring system" to prove bias on the part of the networks.

¶Threatening antitrust action against various news organizations.

¶Threatening an I.R.S. investigation of "the various organizations that we are most concerned about."

¶Providing favorable newsmen with exclusive information.

¶Conducting "major letter-writing efforts" through the Republican National Committee.

Magruder contended that "the Kennedy Administration had no qualms about using the power available to them to achieve their objectives," and he suggested that the Nixon Administration do likewise.