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Muskie Aide Tells of G.O.P. Sabotage

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (AP)—Senator Edmund S. Muskie's Presidential campaign manager testified today that Republican dirty tricks disrupted strategy, generated suspicion and animosity among Democratic Presidential candidates and demoralized Mr. Muskie's staff workers during the 1972 campaign.

Berl I. Bernhard told the Senate Watergate committee that it was difficult to assess precisely the impact of the dirty tricks on the Maine Senator's unsuccessful bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination, but he added:

"In my judgment, the un-

ceasing events to unhorse Senator Muskie took a toll."

Mr. Bernhard said in a 44-page opening statement to the committee that some of the key papers in the campaign, including "the most vital document we had put together," were stolen by infiltrators—apparently spies planted by President Nixon's re-election committee.

The "most vital" document was the major campaign advance and scheduling proposal for use during the fall and winter of 1971 and 1972, when the campaign for the Democratic primaries were getting under way, Mr. Bernhard said.

'Most Vital Document'

"This material had been completed in August, 1971, and because it was the most vital document we had put together, only two copies were made," Mr. Bernhard said. "Within a few days after its production, a copy disappeared. It was later found on our campaign Xerox machine, the staples having been removed, apparently for copying."

Mr. Bernhard testified that the document reflected the entire Muskie political strategy and outlined where the Senator was going, for what purpose and which states or conventions he might choose to de-emphasize. If an opponent had obtained the documents, he could have anticipated Mr. Muskie's moves, he said.

He cited other instances of what he called, "major theft," including the disappearance of raw polling data from the desk of the campaign polling expert and the theft of entire New Jersey and New Hampshire polls, which he said would have been of value to the Committee for the Re-election of the President if they wanted to embarrass Senator Muskie.

The committee was also told that at least \$110,000 was spent by President Nixon's 1972 campaign to hire 22 poli-

cal spies and saboteurs to infiltrate and disrupt Democratic presidential campaigns, the Senate Watergate committee was told Wednesday.

Nazi Party Role Alleged

A committee investigator, Mark Lackritz, testified that in one case a \$10,000 California reregistration campaign was run in part by members of the American Nazi party. Its purpose was to prevent a Democratic presidential primary candidacy by Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, Mr. Lackritz said.

He displayed to the committee a chart that he said portrayed Republican attempts to disrupt the campaign of Senator Muskie as being at their peak in January, 1972. At that time, Mr. Muskie's showing in opinion polls was at his highest.

Mr. Lackritz said political agents had also been hired to work in or disrupt the Presidential campaigns of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, and George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota.

In a related development, the White House acknowledged today that it was negotiating with the Senate panel on its effort to gain access to President Nixon's Key Biscayne, Fla., bank account records.

Committee sources confirmed that they were seeking the Nixon bank records, but one source said White House lawyers "had dug in their heels" and indicated they would claim executive privilege to keep the records from the committee.

The bank's president is Charles G. Rebozo, a close friend of Mr. Nixon.