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Magruder Memo To Pester Paper

Washington

The White House, in May, 1970, embarked upon a campaign of "pestering" the Washington Post and its publisher, Katharine Graham, according to a White House memo obtained by the Washington Post yesterday.

The memo, from White House aide Jeb Stuart Magruder to presidential chief of staff H.R. (Bob) Haldeman dated May 6, 1970, states, "1 — We have a team of letter-writers who are pestering the Washington Post from the viewpoint that was suggested. 2 — I have asked Lyn Nofziger to work up the House round-robin letter to the Post."

PAPER

A "talking paper," apparently prepared for Haldeman and attached to Magruder's memo, states: "Put someone on the Washington Post to needle Kay Graham. Set up calls or letters every day from the viewpoint of I hate Nixon but you're hurt-

ing our cause in being so childish, ridiculous and overboard in your constant criticism, and thus destroying your credibility."

The "talking paper" continues, "Nofziger should work out with someone in the house a round-robin letter to the post that says we live in Washington, D.C., read the D.C. papers, but fortunately we also have the opportunity to read the papers from our home districts and are appalled at the biased coverage the people in Washington receive of the news, compared to that in the rest of the country."

Nofziger, a former White House aide now working on the staff of California's lieutenant governor, said that he could remember neither the memo nor any letter writing campaign that he participated in while working in the White House.

The discovery of the memo concerning the Post followed the release earlier

last week of several White House memos by Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep.-Conn.), a member of the Senate Watergate committee, concerning plans to launch an offensive against the news media.

MEMO

Neither the Magruder memo nor the "talking paper" indicates whether any specific article or editorial provoked the proposal to harass the post.

Another point in Magruder's memo discusses media coverage of the White House's decommissioning of the presidential yacht, the "Patricia," was part of an attempt to sell the boat.

"I frankly think we have as much mileage out of it as we can get," Magruder said in his memo to Haldeman, "except to cite it from time to time as an example of our attempts to save the government money."

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