

Nixon Aide Admits Grants Were Used To Win Votes in '72

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 — Frederic V. Malek, a key White House aide, has acknowledged that he drafted and monitored a secret plan in 1972 to direct multimillion-dollar Federal grants where they would win votes for President Nixon's re-election.

According to documents now held by the Senate Watergate committee, Mr. Malek took credit in June 1972 for a program of "improving departmental responsiveness in support of the President's re-election," and for the following bureaucratic maneuvers:

☛ A grant for migrant work-

Continued on Page 18, Column 4

The New York Times

Published: January 16, 1974

Copyright © The New York Times

NIXON AIDE TELLS OF USE OF GRANTS

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

ers in Texas was switched, at the request of Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, from an anti-Administration group to one that was considered favorable to the Nixon campaign.

A suit by the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission against the University of Texas, alleging discrimination in faculty personnel policy, was quashed — also at the urging of Senator Tower, who was a candidate for re-election in 1972. The suit, Mr. Malek wrote in a memorandum dated June 7, 1972, would have had "a serious negative impact in a key state."

A Federal investigation was canceled and subpoenaed books were returned to a Philadelphia local of the Dock and Wharf Builders Union — a turnabout that Mr. Malek described at the time as "very helpful to the Administration in impacting on the blue-collar vote."

Mr. Malek was a special assistant to President Nixon in 1972 and is now Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Commenting today on newspaper disclosures



Associated Press

Frederic V. Malek

of his campaign memorandums, Mr. Malek insisted that the "responsiveness" project was designed neither to buy votes nor to put improper political pressures on Government agencies.

The program was ordered, he said, by H. R. Haldeman, the one-time White House Chief of Staff who resigned last spring amid the Watergate scandals. The results of the program, Mr. Malek added, had been overstated — "fluffed up a little bit," he said — to please Mr. Haldeman.

Yet the details and the overall contour of the Malek program seemed to fit into the

general picture drawn by other witnesses before the Watergate committee of a concerted effort by the Nixon White House to turn the executive branch into an instrument of partisan politics.

When Mr. Malek first outlined the program on March 17, 1972, he wrote that the Department of Commerce had already begun making certain grants to White House allies.

'Potential Much Greater'

"Politically these actions have been most beneficial," Mr. Malek wrote then. "Nevertheless, in spite of this achievement, the potential is much greater. In the Commerce Department, for example, there is nearly \$700-million in funds remaining in this fiscal year which could be redirected in some manner."

Most other executive departments, his memorandum added, listing program after program, had flexible funds. "Even if only 5 per cent of this amount can be rechanneled to impact more directly on target groups or geographic areas," he wrote, "it would be a substantial increase over the current efforts."

"Naturally," Mr. Malek continued, "steps would be taken (1) to insure that information about the program itself and the departmental plans would not be leaked and (2) keep the President and the White House disassociated with the program in the event of a leak."

The New York Times

Published: January 16, 1974

Copyright © The New York Times