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The No. 2 man at the Committee to Re - Elect the President in 1972 said yasterday he once received "direct" orders from President Nixon to clean up anything "unethical" going on in the campaign.

Frederic V. Malek, former campaign deputy chairman and now deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, said he never found anything "unethical" to clean up.

The West Point - trained White House appointee said he was assigned to the campaign committee on July 1, 1972, 12 days after the break-in of the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate hotel in Washington.

-Malek said he and former Representative Clark Mac-Gregor (Rep - Minn.), named campaign chairman to succeed former Attorney General John Mitchell, were told personally and directly by Mr. Nixon to root out anything unethical they found in the operations.

But the Watergate break-in occurred before his arrival, Malek told interviewers on KNBC's "News Conference,"; to be televised today, and "all I knew was that Magruder and Dean assured me nobody else was involved"; in the break-in except those arrested, and later tried and convicted.

Malek referred to Jeb Stuart Magruder, who was No. 2 man to Mitchell in the campaign prior to Jnly 1, 1972, and to John Dean III, former counsel to the President and subsequently a key Watergate investigation witness.

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