

Albert Says It Never Happened

Washington

House Speaker Carl Albert has described as "a complete fabrication" a statement in White House transcripts that he had ordered a Government Accounting Office audit of Republican campaign practices.

Albert also said yesterday that he had no knowledge of any heat put on him in retaliation, as was suggested by White House aide H. R. Haldeman.

The reference to Albert came in a Sept. 15, 1972, conversation in the President's Oval Office among Mr. Nixon, Haldeman and counsel John Dean.

It followed a discussion of Democratic election practices and a GAO audit of similar practices among Republicans at the White House.

Dean told Mr. Nixon there was nothing awry within the White House staff.

"I learned today, incidentally, and have not confirmed it, that the GAO auditor who is down here is here at the speaker of the House's request," Dean said.

"That surprises me," Mr. Nixon said.

Haldeman then said, "Well, (expletive deleted)

the speaker of the House. Maybe we better put a little heat on him."

"I think so too," Mr. Nixon said.

"Because he has a lot worse problems than he is going to find down here," Haldeman said.

"That's right," Dean said.

"That is the kind of thing that, you know, we really ought to do is call the speaker and say, 'I regret to say your calling the GAO down here because of what it is going to cause us to do to you.'" Haldeman said.

Mr. Nixon suggested to Haldeman, "Why don't you see if Harlow will tell him that," referring to recently departed counselor Bryce Harlow.

"Because he wouldn't do it — he would just be pleasant and call him Mr. Speaker," Haldeman said.

In an interview yesterday, Albert said he had just learned of the transcript's exchange concerning him.

"I never talked to the GAO in my life or the comptroller general about doing anything to the White House," Albert said.

"Somebody just misinformed them," Albert said.

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