

WXPost
Jesuit Superior Disavows Nixon MAY 23 1974



THE REV. JOHN McLAUGHLIN, S.J.
 ... hit critics of Mr. Nixon

By Jerry Taylor

Special to The Washington Post

BOSTON, May 22—The Jesuit superior of presidential assistant John J. McLaughlin today disassociated the Roman Catholic order from Father McLaughlin's defense of President Nixon's conduct in office.

The Very Rev. Richard T. Cleary, New England provincial of the Society of Jesus, also said that he will ask Father McLaughlin to spend an eight-day retreat in Boston "to pray about his situation and reflect with me about his life."

Father Cleary questioned Father McLaughlin's adherence to his Jesuit vows of poverty and obedience.

"I don't feel it gives a very good witness to what we're trying to do to be living in the Watergate apartments," Father Cleary said at a press conference here.

Father McLaughlin, deputy special assistant to President Nixon since July, 1971, lives in the Watergate. One-bedroom units there rent for \$425 to \$700 a month. Efforts to learn his salary were unsuccessful, but many White House aides are believed to receive at least \$30,000 a year.

Father McLaughlin was en route from Chicago to Washington late yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

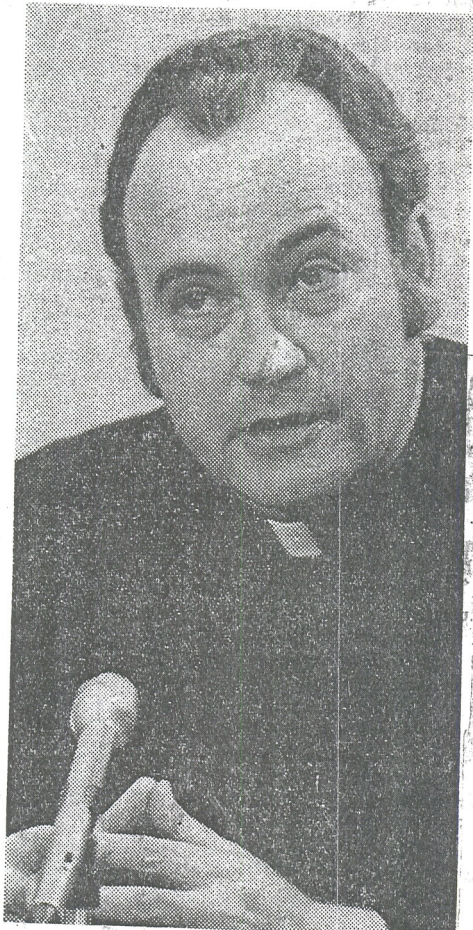
But on Tuesday he told a Boston Globe reporter in Washington that Father Cleary "is at the geopolitical center of liberal thinking, isn't he? That's Massachusetts, the only state out of step with the rest of the country, and, I suppose, he's been hearing on the telephone from individuals . . . those individuals who do not share my enlightened views on Richard Nixon."

On May 8 Father McLaughlin said in a White House briefing that he is an "active Jesuit priest" and that his duties at the White House included "political advising, fact-finding and presidential spokesman-ship."

He has made a number of statements in support of Mr. Nixon, including the statement that the President's use of profanity is a proper way of relieving emotional pressure. He also defended as moral the President's bombing of North Vietnam at Christmas, 1972.

See JESUIT, A10, Col. 5

Aide's Views



THE VERY REV. RICHARD CLEARY, S.J.
 ... urges "prayer," "reflection"

JESUIT, From A1

In a statement dealing with Father McLaughlin's public pronouncements on behalf of Mr. Nixon, Father Cleary expressed regret that his subordinate's views had been interpreted as representing Catholic or Jesuit policy.

"Father McLaughlin does

not speak officially in any way whatsoever for the church, the Jesuit fathers or myself," Father Cleary said.

"When he speaks, he does so for himself alone; his opinions, interpretations of the moral law and points of view are entirely his own and they should be taken and evaluated as such. . . . I do not personally subscribe to, endorse or approve them, although I do recognize his legal right to make such statements as a private citizen."

Father Cleary contrasted Father McLaughlin's financial position and conformity to Jesuit procedures with those of another prominent Jesuit priest from New England, Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.)

The Jesuit provincial said Father McLaughlin had never sought or received permission from the order to work for Mr. Nixon or to live in the Watergate and had never turned over any of his White House salary to the Jesuits.

Father Drinan has received Jesuit approval for his congressional campaigns and all his financial arrangements, Father Cleary said. Father Drinan pays for living quarters in the Jesuit community at Georgetown University and at Boston College in Newton, Mass.