

NYTimes JUN 17 1974
**WATERGATE PANEL
TOLD OF AID ABUSE**

**Staff's Draft Report Cites
'Criminal Conspiracy' to
Politicize Help for Aged**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 16—White House efforts on behalf of President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign included an extensive plan to politicize programs to aid the elderly, according to a Senatt Watergate committee staff report.

The major effort cited was a plan to fund an organization, the Federation of Experienced Americans, created by the White House to help attract support from the elderly.

In the process, White House officials pressured Federal agencies to cut the funds of two long-time advocate agencies for the elderly, groups considered "enemies" of the President, according to the report.

Nearly 20 pages of the more than 150-page draft report were devoted to efforts aimed at the aged. The report has not been made public, but a copy was made available to the The New York Times.

The report gave the details of what the staff called a "civil and criminal conspiracy" to divert to political use funds appropriated by Congress for so-

cial and economic programs for special groups, such as minorities, the poor, the elderly and veterans.

The report said that the plan included the use of such Administration officials and supporters as Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Arthur S. Flemming, now the chairman of the United States Civil Rights Commission, in television commercials, and the printing of brochures aimed at the aged, all at public expense.

Further, documents quoted in the report showed that \$263,000 was spent on various brochures and publications, ostensibly depicting what the President had done for the elderly, but which were clearly political in nature, the staff said.

"The evidence the committee has gathered indicates that Federal resources were employed to secure the support of older Americans," the report stated. "Various documents obtained by the select committee also indicate that Government brochures were prepared for political purposes."

Regarding the Federation of Experienced Americans, the report said that the Office of Economic Opportunity was ordered to provide \$400,000 to fund the federation, "which was created on March 29, 1972, on White House initiative."

The federation was awarded a contract of \$1.5-million by the Labor Department three months after the organization was set up, purportedly to train and provide work for 350 poor elderly, the report said. The O.E.O. grant, of \$399,839, was made later in the year, ostensibly for the federation to deal with problems of Spanish-speaking elderly poor.

The report quoted an audit by the General Accounting Office that said the two grants "were processed outside normal procedures" and with "substantial White House backing."

In addition, the report said the White House wanted to cut back and eventually terminate Federal funding of the National Council on Aging and the National Council of Senior Citizens. The funds of the two groups, "considered 'enemies' of the White House," were not ended but were reduced substantially, the report stated.

The staff report included a memorandum written by Irven M. Eitrem, chief of the O.E.O.'s older persons programs. The memo was written, the official said, "to protect myself and perhaps some other people within the agency" because of the "irregular" way in which the grant was handled. The official described a meeting at which time approval of the contact was offered. Attending the meeting, he said, was David Brody, president of the Federation of Experienced Americans.

"At a small briefing session on the morning of Oct. 31, conducted in an atmosphere of conspiracy and attended by Brody, we were told that the normal agency requirement for review board approval had been waived, that normal approval of the Mayor of Washington and certain Governors would be handled informally and perhaps by telephone and that standard procedures for announcing the grant were to be bypassed, at least for the time being," the report quoted Mr. Eitrem as writing.

Listed in the report as participating in the plan to politicize programs for the elderly were Daniel Todd, director of the Older American Voter Group of the Committee for the Re-election of the President; Desmond Barker and L. J. Evans, White House aides, and Frederic V. Malek, now the deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.

All of the men have denied repeatedly that they were involved in a plan to politicize the programs.