

# Band of Nixon-Hating Partisans Blamed for House News Leaks

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By PHILIP SHABECOFF JUN 19 1974

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WASHINGTON, June 18 — Ken W. Clawson, the communications director to the President, said today that leaks from the House Judiciary Committee were part of "a purposeful effort to bring down the President in a smoke-filled room operation by a clique of Nixon-hating partisans."

Mr. Clawson's statement followed publication of an article today by the Washington Post, based on a confidential memorandum prepared by a staff member of the House committee, that said that President Nixon was "planning to assume some culpability" for the payment of hush money to E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the convicted Watergate conspirators.

In the statement, Mr. Clawson called the memorandum "one-sided" and noted that the staff member who prepared it was William Dixon, a campaign worker for Senator George McGovern, the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1972.

In his latest leak, Mr. Clawson asserted, "shows clearly that the Judiciary Committee in general and Mr. Rodino [Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the committee] in particular intend to do nothing about this trial by innuendo."

The statement said that this and other memorandums pre-

pared by Mr. Dixon — reportedly at the request of a committee member, Jerome R. Waldie, Democrat of California — "were written for the purpose of slandering President Nixon."

Mr. Rodino has told reporters that he was not informed in advance about the preparation of the memos by Mr. Dixon. He has also said that he ordered that advance clearance be obtained by committee members before having the staff prepare such reports.

When asked by a reporter later today what Mr. Rodino could do to halt the leaks, Mr. Clawson replied, "He should fire the staff people who leak and identify the committee members who leak so that the American people know who the finks are."

Asked further about critics who charged that the White House was complaining about leaks to discredit the committee and throw a smoke screen around the charges against the President, Mr. Clawson replied with an expletive.

Representative Robert McClory of Illinois, a senior Republican on the Judiciary Committee, sent Mr. Rodino a letter today saying that the "so-called Dixon memos represent a new source of criticism of our committee and are to be explored."