

Nixon Denies He Backed A Political Role for Gray

by James M. Naughton
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The President was asked about a memorandum to Mr. Gray last July from Patrick E. O'Donnell, a White House aide who encouraged the acting F.B.I. director to make an appearance in Cleveland because Ohio was "vital" to Mr. Nixon's re-election bid. Democratic Senators have cited the memorandum as a reason to suspect Mr. Gray's involvement in the campaign last year.

Mr. Nixon said, however, that if there had been any attempt to enlist Mr. Gray in a campaign role, "it certainly didn't have my support and would not have it now."

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(Transcript of press conference filed Nix Ad 3 Mar 73.)