

objectionable. As President, Nixon hired Chotiner as a White House "special counsel" to do political chores and also to do things for Nixon no one else would.\*

Chotiner was a fellow who always seemed to be in the process of divorce, while enjoying the company of yet another beautiful blonde. He spoke softly and slowly. The press pictured him as a ruthless and tough politician, and I had expected him to be a dese-and-dose pol with a big cigar; but his manner was just the opposite.

In 1968, Chotiner obtained the services of someone who looked and acted enough like a reporter to be accredited to the Humphrey campaign (and again to the McGovern campaign in 1972). Almost every day Chotiner's "mole" on the Humphrey press plane would send us lengthy reports describing the morale, internal operating problems and off-the-record or unreported comments of the opposition campaign staff and candidate and (often more important) the candidate's wife. This operative was known as Chapman's Friend. Those daily bulletins seldom provided truly important or valuable information, but they often served up tasty gossip. Confusion or distress among the Democrats encouraged us. Once in a while our press secretary would give a favored reporter an anonymous tidbit from Chapman's Friend and later we'd see it on the network news or in a wire-service report as an inside story from the Humphrey campaign.

Such espionage was a part of all the Nixon campaigns I was involved in. But while all this was going on in Nixon's campaigns, the counterspies were always hard at work. In 1960 a giant Nixon rally in San Francisco's Union Square was thoroughly sabotaged by John Kennedy's merry men. In the middle of Nixon's speech the microphone and lighting cables were cut by someone who crawled under the platform and clipped them neatly. One of Governor Pat Brown's fellows still brags about the sabotage he did on Nixon motorcades in 1962. In the 1968 campaign, we had all kinds of trouble from coast to coast: organized heckling, sabotaged public-address systems and ambushes of rocks and eggs.

In 1968, Nixon demanded that his staff conduct his campaign as if

\* Chotiner's presence on the White House staff ultimately created a specific embarrassment to Nixon, and Nixon told Haldeman to send Chotiner away. Murray Chotiner did as he was told; he became a Washington lawyer—but we continued to hear from him. He lobbied effectively for his clients and, occasionally, did political errands for the White House from the outside. Nixon spoke sentimentally of him even after he had fired him, but it was obvious that Murray had used up his equity in some specific way I was never told about.