

Drew Pearson Reports From Washington-

Mickey Cohen's Relations With Nixon And Chotiner

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Herbert Klein, press relations assistant to Richard Nixon, has sent a telegram to many newspapers categorically denying a recent Washington Merry-Go-Round column which quoted a statement from Mickey Cohen, former lord of the Los Angeles underworld, that he, Cohen, raised \$26,000 for Richard Nixon in Nixon's early political campaigns in 1948 or 1950.

The column which Klein challenges is important because Nixon has been basing much of his current campaign for President on an attack on crime and his support of law and order.

The facts in the case are these:

On April 12, 1959, I broadcast a report over station KABC in Los Angeles and other radio stations that Murray Chotiner, former campaign manager for Nixon, had collected campaign funds from Mickey Cohen, the kingpin of the Los Angeles underworld.

Chotiner immediately threatened to sue KABC and under California law filed an official demand for a retraction. KABC was about to issue the retraction and its attorneys so notified me.

At that time Cohen had finished a term in the federal

penitentiary and was active in helping probation authorities in Southern California work with boys who were in trouble. He had delivered talks in California reformatories urging boys to go straight. I had been in touch with him as a result of my work with Big Brothers, and Cohen had come East on one occasion to confer regarding the possibility of meeting with juvenile delinquents in Eastern reformatories.

Following Chotiner's demand for a retraction I queried Cohen regarding the facts on his collecting funds for Nixon from the gambling fraternity. He said that a meeting had been held in one of the Hollywood hotels to raise money for Nixon and that he also had opened campaign headquarters for Nixon, in either his campaigns or for the Senate.

Cohen offered to talk to Chotiner and refresh Chotiner's memory. After he did this, Chotiner informed KABC to drop his demand for a retraction.

COHEN'S WRITTEN STATEMENT — Subsequently Cohen was convicted of income-tax evasion, and while incarcerated in Alcatraz he made a statement to Richard R. Rogan, then Chief Deputy

Attorney General of California. This is the statement quoted in the column of Oct. 31.

Cohen's incarceration in Alcatraz on an income-tax evasion rap was highly unusual and probably politically motivated by the Justice Department. No other income-tax violators had been sent to a maximum security penal institution. Subsequently he was transferred to Atlanta, where he was beaten up by another inmate, sued the United States government and collected \$100,000. Partially paralyzed, he has been transferred to the Springfield, Mo., federal prison hospital. I have been in touch with him from time to time and as recently as within the past month. He stands by his previous statement given to Rogan.

Just before Klein issued his telegram denial, Murray Chotiner, who is working at Nixon's New York headquarters, proposed to Nixon associates that he send a telegram of denial. This was overruled, chiefly because Chotiner's part in the current Nixon campaign is being played down.

After Nixon became Vice President in 1952, Chotiner was called before the Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John McClellan, D-Ark., then investigating influence peddling.

Chotiner had used the Vice President's office to write letters which he signed: "On behalf of Vice President Nixon." He was also made associate director of the "Len Hall Campaign School" of the Republican National Committee, in which capacity he lectured on campaign tactics to Republican state chairmen in 1956.

It was Chotiner who in Nixon's first campaign for Congress conceived the idea of having "Liberty Bells" and "Minutewomen" call voters in the California district then then represented by Rep. Jerry Voorhees, Democrat, to ask, "Did you know that Congressman Voorhees had communist sympathies? As a patriotic citizen, I thought I should warn you."

Chotiner claimed that his tactics were instrumental in lecting Nixon in fir first race for Congress.

THE PINK SHEET — Later, during Nixon's Senate campaign against Helen Gahagan Douglas, Chotiner devised the famous "Pink Sheet" comparing Mrs. Douglas' record with that of Rep. Marcantonio, in an attempt to make her appear to be communistic. Actually she had voted for the war in Korea, whereas Nixon had voted against it.

Chotiner's influence during Nixon's first term as Vice President was amazing. He was able to intervene with Sherman Adams at the White House on behalf of his client, North American Airlines. He became the attorney for Sam and Herman Kravits, clothing manufacturers black-listed for cheating the Army.

This is the background of Nixon's old California campaign manager who has been resurrected as an aide in the present Nixon campaign to be President of the United States.

Boyle Column—

A Zany Inventor

By JOY STILLEY For Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Rowland Emmett, a slender fair-haired man with a British accent, a vivid imagination, an impish sense of humor, not only creates outrageous contraptions on his drawing board, but brings these impossible whimsies to life in working three-dimensional form.

He is the first to admit that his zany inventions have no practical value. "They're all glorious failures," he says, "and that's the fun. Their primary purpose is to make people laugh."

And people have been laughing with the ingenious native of London ever since his drawings began appearing in Punch, Britain's weekly humor magazine, during World War II. His cartoons pictured a mad railway system, the Far-Tottering to Oyster Creek Branch Railway that satirized all the problems of the British railway system.

FOR THE Festival of Britain in 1951 he was asked by the government to design his system to be built full-size to carry people around the exposition. He came up with actual reproductions of his Wild Goose, the flying engine; Neptune, which didn't quite know whether to be a boat or a locomotive; and Nellie, the engine with a tremendously long funnel and spindly boiler.

The trains were a huge success and Emmett was inundated with requests to build

"enormous bits of three-dimensional nonsense, and that is all I've been doing ever since."

His latest are the gadgets and gimmicks he created for the forthcoming musical film, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," starring Dick Van Dyke as Caractacus Potts, an inventor Emmett claims is "almost as dotty as I am."

Some of the oddball things Emmett's are a comical haircutting device, a wild washing machine, a mad mechanism that automatically prepares, cooks and delivers eggs and sausages for breakfast, and the Visivision Picture Snatcher, for snatching pictures and words from the air.

EMETT AND his associates have produced on the average of one invention a year since 1951. Each takes seven or eight months to complete and all parts move constantly and electrically. They are constructed of every material known to man and some things unknown to his wife, such as an antique mirror he spirited away from their cottage in Sussex.

"I have no trouble getting the ideas," he says. "The problem is carrying them out. They all begin in the proverbial little scribble on the back of an envelope."

Emmett is holding his creative genius in check for the moment. He and his wife are going on a world tour in connection with the movie, which is his biggest project to date.



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