

# Senate Sources Say Nixon Knew Of Bugging Cover-Up

From Enquirer Wires

WASHINGTON — Senate sources said Monday investigators have evidence there was an elaborate White House effort to cover up high-level involvement in the Watergate affair. The evidence indicates presidential aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were among the participants, the sources said.

They said there is no question President Nixon was aware of a cover-up effort, perhaps as early as a few days after the break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building last June 17.

However, at Key Biscayne, Fla., the White House Monday categorically denied that President Nixon had any advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging.

But deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren declined to disclose when Mr. Nixon first became

aware that several of his own aides likely were involved in the June 17 break-in and subsequent attempts to cover up the burglary.

**THE QUESTION OF** timing became more critical as attention focused on the President's own actions over the last several months during which the most serious embarrassment yet to confront his administration unfolded.

In Washington, Senate sources refused to describe the reported cover-up in detail, but said one phase included "attempts to pressure other officials in the government to go along."

The sources, who have been close to the Senate's Watergate investigation, said the other officials included ranking members of the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray presumably was in that group, and his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee re-

garding the Watergate investigation indicated that he refused to co-operate with the reported cover-up.

**"THE COVER-UP** is even more damning than the Watergate itself," the sources said, and it likely will result in more resignation from the White House staff.

Ehrlichman, chief of President Nixon's domestic affairs council so far has escaped prominent mention in reports of White House involvement in Watergate.

Gray did say in his Senate testimony, however, that Ehrlichman and presidential counsel John W. Dean III called him on the carpet following news leaks regarding the FBI's investigation of the bugging and break-in at the Democrats' offices.

The sources also said James McCord testified to Senate investigators that he had been offered presidential clemency if he went to jail without identifying anyone else higher up in the Watergate affair. McCord was convicted of wiretapping, burglary and conspiracy during a trial in which he didn't testify on his own behalf. He now has begun to co-operate with prosecutors and Senate investigators.

**IN OTHER WATERGATE** developments Monday:

- Chief U. S. Dist. Judge John J. Sirica ordered prosecutors to investigate the source of published transcripts of secret testimony to the Watergate grand jury. Sirica, after a closed meeting with other federal court judges, said the secrecy of the grand jury is supposed to protect the innocent and encourage prospective witnesses. Prosecutors already have asked the FBI to find who gave the transcripts to columnist Jack Anderson.

- The Washington Star-News said the Nixon campaign kept a secret cash fund of up to \$500,000 to use, at least in part, for political spying and disruption. The newspaper said the President's personal lawyer, Herbert Kalmbach, controlled the money.

The story was written from

Newport Beach, Calif., where Kalmbach practices law. It said Kalmbach wouldn't comment on the report.

- Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) said the man now heading President Nixon's investigation of Watergate helped scuttle a congressional probe last year. He urged the President to replace Asst. Atty. Gen. Henry E. Petersen with a special prosecutor who is "an outside, uncompromised unimpeachable citizen."

Reuss said the House Banking and Currency Committee voted against subpoena power for its chairman, Wright Patman (D-Texas) after Petersen wrote that a congressional inquiry would imperil the efforts of federal law-enforcement officials.

- Senate Democratic whip Robert Byrd said President Nixon should "reconstitute" his White House staff by appointing a special prosecutor to investigate the Watergate bugging and fire all staff members implicated in the affair.

"I think that he (Nixon) certainly ought to know the names of those who might be indicted," Byrd said. "He's going to have to act now and not wait for the indictments to fall."

- Three more cartons of Republican campaign finance records were delivered to U. S. District Court in Washington as Common Cause filed a motion asking that President Nixon's chief fund-raiser, Maurice H. Stans, be ordered to deliver all records within 72 hours or be held in contempt of court.

As lawyers for the citizens lobby were filing the motion, Daniel Webster Coon, a lawyer for the finance committee to Re-elect the President, of which Stans is chairman, delivered the documents to the clerk's office.

Coon told a reporter he hadn't known Common Cause was filing the motion. He said he received a telephone call Saturday from Paul Barrick, treasurer of the finance committee, telling him that the three cartons of records had been found.