

Nixon Report On Finances Due Sunday

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The White House denies that President Nixon or any other administration official used the phrase "Operation Candor" to describe a program launched last month to try to provide a new line of defense in the Watergate controversy.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren stoutly maintains that the operation, whatever it is called, still is in full swing and that all matters "will be cleared up completely" when all the facts are made known.

The detailed report on the President's finances is scheduled for publication Sunday, and it will be followed by other reports and documents, Warren said. He would not be specific, however, about what other information will be published other than to say that reports on the ITT case and the milk fund are being prepared.

Although U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica has said that the President is free to make public the tapes of any conversations, Warren refuses to say when or whether tapes will be released.

He does say that they will "show clearly that the positions stated by the President are accurate and correct." Warren's comment raises all the more urgently

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Report on Nixon's Finances Scheduled to Appear Sunday

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the question of why, if he is accurate, the tapes are not immediately made public.

The press spokesman becomes impatient when reporters question him as to details and specifics. His replies, couched mainly in generalities, starkly emphasize the differences between the attitude at the White House and that among outspoken leaders on Capitol Hill.

To hear White House officials tell the story, the President is put upon by old enemies, by carping critics who would always find something to criticize, and by a hostile press. These officials maintain that the President has gone to great extremes to proclaim his innocence.

There are few at the White House who deny, however, that "Operation Candor" was badly damaged by the disclosure Nov. 21 that 18 minutes of a subpoenaed tape conversation between the President and former aide H. R. (Bob) Halde- man had been erased.

Only the day before, Mr. Nixon had told the nation's Republican governors in Memphis that he knew of no other bombshell.

That one remark, which was blown out of the water the very next day, may have caused more damage than any number of "Operations Candor" could overcome. Followed by Rose Mary Woods' testimony in court, there were renewed predictions that the President would be impeached or forced to resign within a reasonable time following the swearing-in of Gerald R. Ford as Vice President.

Asked yesterday about re-

ports that Mr. Nixon may consider resigning now that a Republican Vice President has been installed, Warren replied that the President's position "is very clear."

The President has stated to the public in many forums that he is "dedicated" to the duties of his office and has "deep feelings about his obligations to this office," Warren said, adding that Mr. Nixon intends "to complete the work he" was elected to perform.

The confirmation of Ford as Vice President does not affect the President's determination to carry out his duties "in any way," Warren said. Ford also told a news conference later that Mr. Nixon emphasized that he was determined not to resign.

Asked how successful "Operation Candor" had been, Warren replied that the President's intention is "to disclose to the public all the pertinent information surrounding various charges against him and members of his family." *Check with P. 5 and?*

Referring to the meetings the President has held with editors, the general public and members of Congress, Warren said that "there will be other discussions with groups, including members of the press."

"The President wants to clear up any doubts that remain," Warren added. "He will continue to pursue that course, and we believe it will be successful."

Last month, the President began his most recent effort, one of a series launched this year to rebut his critics, by holding meetings with members of Congress. They appeared to be

moderately successful even though many members complained that specific evidence was not provided.

Then the President held the Nov. 17 meeting in Orlando with the Associated Press Managing Editors association, and spoke the next day in Macon, Ga., at a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of Mercer University and the 90th birthday of former Rep. Carl M. Vinson.

After a day of rest in Key Biscayne, Mr. Nixon flew to Memphis for the meeting with the governors. Again the reports were generally favorable until the erasure bombshell the next day and caused some of the governors to say they had not been dealt with candidly.

"Operation Candor" had been expected to continue in various ways this month, but with Congress in session longer than expected, with the energy crisis imposing restraints on presidential travel, and with the after-taste of the tape erasure, no other trips or special meetings were scheduled.

Warren said that the operation will continue, and at the same time he and the President have gone to considerable lengths to assert, despite reports to the contrary, the President's determination to serve out his term.

There was an additional reminder of his intention yesterday in a joint communique issued following the visit of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. "President Ceausescu invited President and Mrs. Nixon for an official visit to Romania," the communique said. "The invitation was accepted with pleasure."