

Nixon Continues Work On Watergate Rebuttal

President Nixon returned to Camp David yesterday, accompanied by his principal speech writer, to continue work on the response he plans to make next week to Watergate charges.

Raymond K. Price, who accompanied Mr. Nixon on a cruise down the Potomac Tuesday night, flew with him to Camp David yesterday for an indefinite stay.

While official spokesmen have declined to say exactly when the President will speak, it was indicated that he is planning to address the nation by the middle of next week.

According to present intentions, he will issue at the same time an extensive white paper giving detailed replies to charges made against him in the Senate Watergate hearings.

While Mr. Nixon and Price are concentrating on the television address, White House lawyers are working on a document to be released concurrently with the speech or shortly thereafter.

Within a few days after the television address, Mr. Nixon is expected to fly to San Clemente, Calif., probably remaining there until after Labor Day.

While in California, if present plans are carried out, aides say he will hold his first news conference since March 15.

There had been reports that Mr. Nixon would like to make his speech promptly after the Senate Watergate investigating committee suspended its hearings.

But White House officials have said that the President could not prepare a full reply until the hearings were ended Tuesday, and that more time is required by the lawyers in preparing a documented rebuttal to the many charges made during the hearings.

For almost the first time, White House aides acknowledge that the President is spending a vast amount of time on Watergate and on his response to the charges leveled against him.

He spent last weekend at Camp David working alone, then drove back to the mountain retreat Monday afternoon for an overnight stay.

The President returned to the White House Tuesday morning and shortly thereafter met for almost two hours with Vice President Agnew.

Mrs. Nixon and their daughter Tricia Cox are also at Camp David.