

President Follows Watergate Action

5/18/73 By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Nixon is determined to "accomplish the things he set out to accomplish" and is working on domestic and foreign issues while also following Watergate developments, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said yesterday.

Ziegler was replying to a request for comment on a statement by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) suggesting that the President needs to resume leadership and demonstrate his ability to govern.

Mr. Nixon was aware of Goldwater's statement and of other criticisms, Ziegler said, and he has been attending to governmental business. The President scheduled a Cabinet meeting for today.

Ziegler declined to reply to a host of questions involving Watergate on the grounds that the answers to most questions would be answered in the Senate investigation or in the courts.

He did say that to the best of his knowledge former presidential assistant John D. Ehrlichman did not have possession of the medical records of Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.) before news of his psychiatric treatment was published during last year's campaign.

The Washington Post re-

ported yesterday that Ehrlichman had the records "several weeks before the information was leaked to the news media."

Robert S. Boyd of Knight Newspapers, which received the first tip on the Eagleton health story, said the tipster never was identified but that sources he provided verified at least one of Eagleton's treatments.

Based on new inquiries by the Knight organization, Boyd said he is convinced it was "virtually impossible" that the tip had been instigated by either the White House or the Committee to re-elect the President.

Ziegler said that Ehrlichman, H. R. Haldeman and John W. Dean III, whose resignations were announced April 30, would leave the government payroll at the end of this week.

Asked if he plans to continue as press secretary, Ziegler said that he expects to stay "as long as the President" wants him to do so. He said he had had no indication that the President wants to make a change.

Ziegler declined to give any details of meetings the President had Wednesday with former Treasury Secretary John Connally or with Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz.