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White House Bugging Probe 'Clears' Aides

BUGGING

By a Star-News Staff Writer

SAN LEMENTE, Calif.
President Nixon, in his first public comment on the water-gate break-in case, said today that "we want the air cleared" as soon as possible in the case and on charges of irregularities in the financing his re-election campaign.

As a result of a separate investigation by his special counsel John Dean, Nixon said he could say categorically that no one now employed in the administration was involved in what he called the "rather bizarre" Watergate case.

He added that anyone on the campaign committee who does not cooperate in the ongoing investigations, or against whom there are charges backed by prima facie evidence, will be discharged.

"I think we are doing everything we can to investigate

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and not cover up," the President declared.

The President also told a press conference that "technical violations have occurred and apparently are occurring on both sides" in regard to the new campaign financing law.

He emphasized his confidence that Maurice Stans, his finance chairman, will correct whatever technical violations have occurred there.

Stans' name was mentioned in the General Accounting Office report issued Saturday that stated that several "apparent violation violations of federal campaign spending laws had occurred in the handling of money by the Finance Committee to Re-Elect President Nixon.

The audit, which was sent to the Justice Department for consideration of legal action, was requested after it was learned that \$25,000 in Nixon campaign contributions wound up in the bank account of one of the five persons arrested inside Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex on June 17.

He told a questioner he did not believe appointing a special prosecutor in the Watergate case would "serve a useful purpose" in view of the several investigations already underway.

At his first press conference for many months in which he has been willing to discuss political questions, Nixon also:

- Ruled out any debate between himself and Democratic presidential candidate George S. McGovern on the grounds that "whenever a president opens his mouth he makes pol-

icy" and that it would be unwise "to make policy in the heat of a partisan debate when the country is at war.

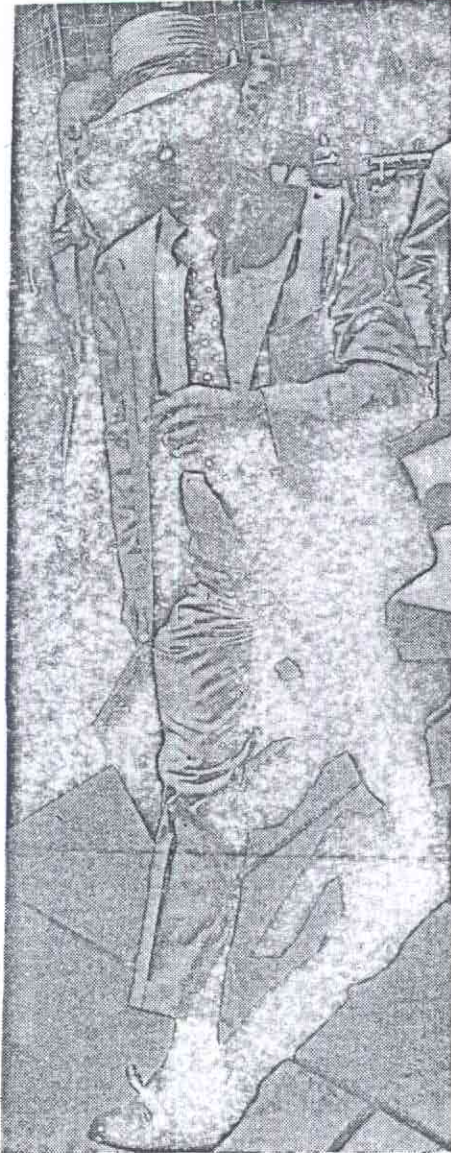
- Declared that he re-election campaign will seek a "clear majority" which will mean a "clear mandate for change that works."

- Announced he will make only one day campaigning trips out of Washington while Congress remains in session and will not make any extended trips after that because of his presidential responsibilities but that this "does not mean a leisurely campaign."

- Refused to rule out debates between Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and Democratic vice presidential candidate Sargent Shriver, although he said he did not believe this would serve a useful purpose.

- Supported Agnew's recent speech on amnesty to veterans of Foreign Wars as one that "totally reflects my views" that those who deserted the armed forces or broke the law to dodge the draft should have to pay a penalty.

Asked for details about his statement that there are Democratic violations of the campaign finance law, Nixon said he thinks "that will come out" during the balance of this week and he would "let the political people speak on that.



-Star-News Photographer Brig-Cabe

E. Howard Hunt in his first appearance since the Watergate break-in.