

CAPITAL APPROVAL

Weicker Says Nation Will Get Truth— Scott Pleased

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President Nixon's announcement today that White House aides would be allowed to testify before the Senate committee investigating the Watergate affair was greeted with general approval on Capitol Hill.

Most of the response came from Republicans, as had much of the most pointed criticism in recent weeks. Democrats, including the Democratic members of the Senate investigating committee, were either not volunteering comments or could not be reached.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., the Connecticut Republican who has been one of the most outspoken of the party's critics in the Watergate matter, issued a statement through an aide that said:

"The spirit of getting at the truth that slowly and surely has been building up in this country, whether by the citizenry or by Senators, now has everyone in its grip. Believe me, we're going to have that story."

Gurney Is 'Delighted'

Another Republican committee member, Senator Edward Gurney of Florida, said he was "delighted" that the President had "made this move."

Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the minority leader, said he was "in complete accord" with the decision, adding: "I believe this is without question the proper course."

The third Republican member of the committee, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., of Tennessee, said: "We now have the biggest hurdle behind us. The President has made the determination to reveal the entire situation and I commend him

for it."

Senator Barry Goldwater, the conservative from Arizona who has been a prominent Republican critic of the Administration's tight-lipped policy, issued a statement through his press secretary, saying: "I am very pleased that President Nixon has now made it possible to get to the bottom of the whole

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Watergate situation."

Somewhat more qualified praise for the President's decision came from the other end of the party's ideological spectrum, with Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of California commenting: "I would have preferred that he [Mr. Nixon] order them to testify. I think every Republican on the hill feels that this should have happened a long time ago."

Mr. McCloskey, who said recently that he might change his party registration if the Watergate affair was not cleared up, said today that the latest development "could very much affect my position," adding: "I'm really pleased with what's happened."

George Bush, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, issued a statement saying that he saw in the President's announcement another demonstration of "his ability to act decisively when the chips are down."

Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr., who has been urging "a full and complete investigation" of a matter that he said was "assuming worldwide proportions," called Mr. Nixon's action "a constructive decision which will be most helpful in restoring confidence." But the Maryland Republican said he agreed with members of the committee that "only hearings in public and under oath meet the test of restoring public confidence."

Senator John G. Tower, a conservative Texas Republican, said: "My position is well known from long ago. I have suggested that White House aides should be allowed to testify and indeed should be urged to testify by the President. I think it's a very constructive move that will probably lead to

early settlement of the case."

Senator Robert W. Packwood, Oregon Republican who has strongly criticized the administration's handling of the case, called the President's action both "overdue and welcome." He added, "I now have renewed hope that the White House will emerge with that well-scrubbed look."

Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York, who has also called for a full and open investigation, said the announcement was "most welcome" and added: "The country has every reason to be deeply troubled about the lack of disclosure about all the circumstances surrounding this affair, no matter where or whom they reached. I hope the President will report on the results of his new investigation very shortly to the whole country, and that the testimony of the White House staffers will be truly informative."

New York's other Senator, James L. Buckley, Conservative-Republican, could not be reached for comment.

The man in charge of the Senate investigation, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., had left Washington by car for his North Carolina home before Mr. Nixon's late-afternoon announcement. An aide said that the Senator and his wife generally "prefer solitude" on their trips and added, "I doubt if he even has the car radio on."

Several other committee members could not be reached for comment.