

President Plans to Speak Up

Will Answer After 1st Phase Of Hearings

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 2—President Nixon will speak to the subject of Watergate as soon as the first phase of the Senate investigating committee's hearings are over but not before, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said today.

Ziegler would not say how the President would address the subject of Watergate, but he said he definitely would hold future news conferences and also make known his views in other forums.

The Senate Watergate committee released an "unofficial" list of 20 witnesses today along with a schedule calling for hearings everyday from July 10 until the Aug. 3 recess and perhaps beyond.

The list includes former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former top White House aides H. R. (Bob) Halde- man, John D. Ehrlichman and Charles W. Colson. *Details on Page A12.*

The Ervin committee has estimated that it will complete the Watergate phase of its investigation in early August.

After it completes the Watergate phase, it will later investigate charges of unfair campaign tactics in last year's election and also the issue of campaign financing.

"The President will address the matter in an appropriate forum or forums," Ziegler said in answer to questions.

While he declined to say what forum—a public speech,

a statement, or interview—Ziegler said the President definitely plans to "speak to this matter in a way he considers appropriate at the time."

But Ziegler said flatly that the President would not appear before the Ervin committee, would not send it a written statement and would not invite its members to meet him informally at the White House.

"The President feels he has a responsibility to the office of President" to observe the constitutional requirement of a separation of powers, the press secretary said.

"He has a responsibility to maintain the prerogatives of the Executive Branch," Ziegler commented.

This is the first time the spokesman has said flatly that Mr. Nixon has no plans for a news conference or a public comment on Watergate until after the end of the first phase of the hearings. Previously he had said that the White House planned no rebuttal to charges as they were made before the committee.

Mr. Nixon has not held a news conference since March 15. His most recent statement on Watergate was on May 22.

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Throughout the lengthy testimony last week of former Presidential counsel John W. Dean III, Mr. Nixon refused to watch any of the reports on television, Ziegler and other officials said repeatedly and emphatically to skeptical reporters.

But it is a known fact that the President is not a television watcher by habit the way his predecessor, Lyndon B. Johnson, was. Some of the President's closest associates have privately complained because he refuses to study reruns of his own television appearances to improve on his performance.

The President worked here all last week with close aides, on both Watergate and other issues, it was said.

He is expected to remain in San Clemente this week and to return to Washington Sunday or Monday.

Informants here privately give reports on the President similar to those some of his former aides have given in the last few days in television interviews and similar to the in-

terview his special counsel, J. Fred Buzhardt, gave over the weekend to the Washington Post.

They insist that the President still does not have all the facts about Watergate or the cover-up, is constantly seeking additional information and is still basically puzzled about what happened.

Ziegler and deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren continue to assert that the President stands by his May 22 statement in which he said he had no prior knowledge of Watergate, did not know about the cover-up until late March and never offered clemency to any of those convicted in the Watergate break-in.

The President conferred here today with national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger, Ziegler, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., and his new counselor, Melvin R. Laird.

Every day since the departure a week ago of Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, Mr. Nixon has met with the same group of staff aides, except Laird, who arrived here at the end of last week.