

# President Urged to Free Files

## Nixon Seen 'In Trouble' With Public

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President Nixon should quickly volunteer to make himself and key Watergate documents available to Senate investigators because he "is in trouble" with the public, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) contended yesterday.

Inouye, a member of the Senate select committee investigating the Watergate scandal, said he felt that Mr. Nixon would get a "negative response" from the American people if he withholds papers sought by the panel.

Sen. James Buckley (Cons.—R-N.Y.), suggested that it would also benefit Mr. Nixon's public position to cooperate with the Watergate panel.

"The White House," Buckley said, "ought to be leaning over backwards in the provision of those documents helpful to the investigation (that) do not trespass on internal communications."

Asked if Mr. Nixon should testify before the Senate committee headed by Sam Ervin (D-N.C.), Buckley said he regretted that the President had "painted himself into a corner" by so strongly rebuffing the panel's efforts to get his side of the case.

"He ought to wait until the full testimony . . . from the principal characters in this investigation," Buckley said, and then judge the "most effective way" to state his case.

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.), a member of the Watergate panel, said he

would vote against subpoenaing Mr. Nixon or any White House documents because such action would violate separation of powers between executive and legislative branches of government.

The White House has refused to turn over documents sought by the Senate panel, saying that to do so would violate the doctrine of separation of powers. Mr. Nixon has promised to meet privately with Sen. Ervin. But a White House spokesman said this meeting will not take place while the President, now confined to Bethesda Naval Hospital with viral pneumonia, is a patient.

Among the papers sought by the Watergate committee are files kept by former White House counsel John W. Dean III and by former White House chief of staff H. R.

See WATERGATE, A8, Col. 4

### WATERGATE, From A1

Haldeman and chief domestic adviser John Ehrlichman.

A majority of the seven-member Watergate panel including Inouye and Ervin, is on record as supporting a subpoena for presidential documents if that proves necessary. But Inouye said yesterday he agreed with Ervin that it was useless to seek a court battle on the issue if Mr. Nixon refuses to honor such a subpoena.

Weicker, for his part, said that he believed the Watergate committee members would be willing to meet Mr. Nixon in private at the White House if that would make it easier for the President to respond to allegations that he knew of the Watergate cover-up.

The senators spoke up on the eve of another full five-day week of televised Watergate testimony before the Ervin panel, starting today with a return appearance by Richard A. Moore, the White House special counsel. Moore last week disputed some of the testimony given by Dean, who implicated the President in the Watergate cover-up.

Moore will be followed by Herbert W. Kalmbach, the president's former personal lawyer and campaign fundraiser.

Buckley appeared on NBC's

"Meet the Press," Weicker on WCBS-TV in New York, and Inouye on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Meanwhile, Newsweek quoted unnamed "Senate sources and federal investigators" as saying that former White House aide Gordon Strachan is ready to testify that Haldeman ordered him to shred "incriminating documents from Haldeman's office safe after the June 17, 1972,

Watergate break-in. Newsweek said Strachan has a list of the documents.

Two other potential Senate committee witnesses, former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and White House staff member Lawrence Higby, Newsweek said, would implicate Haldeman and Ehrlichman in the Watergate operation or its cover-up.

As the senators discussed, in various ways, the impact of

the Watergate affair on Mr. Nixon's public image, Rep. John Anderson (R-Ill.), chairman of the House Republican Conference, suggested that White House efforts for major consolidation of domestic programs into six "special revenue-sharing" plans had suffered heavy "political damage" from Watergate on Capitol Hill.

"There's less push behind it," he said.

But, he said, Watergate may help his own proposal to establish an independent election commission and a \$2.5 billion limit on campaign contributions in presidential races and \$1,000 in congressional races. Rep. Wayne Hays (Ohio), powerful chairman of the House Administration Committee, opposes Anderson's bill, but Anderson said he hoped other Democrats could change Hays' thinking