

Nixon Briefs Cabinet, Downplays Watergate

5/26/73
By a Washington Post Staff Writer

KEY BISCAVNE, Fla. May 25—President Nixon today briefed the Cabinet in Washington on a wide range of topics before leaving for the Memorial Day weekend at the Florida White House, but spent "very little time" discussing the Watergate scandal, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler reported.

The President repeated "his determination not be deflected by the events of the time and (to) move ahead and get the job done" on foreign affairs and other domestic matters, Ziegler said.

Mr. Nixon discussed his planned meetings next Thursday and Friday in Iceland with French President Georges Pompidou and next month's scheduled summit meeting with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, as well as the U.S. energy crisis, the economy and U.S.-European relations, Ziegler said.

However, the President's press secretary refused to elaborate on the cabinet discussions, which lasted for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

National security adviser Henry A. Kissinger also briefed the Cabinet on his discussions last week in Paris with North Vietnamese Polituro member Le Duc Tho. But Ziegler said that he had no new information on Kissinger's earlier optimistic appraisal of the talks.

Mr. Nixon was accompanied to Florida by White House chief of staff Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., speech writer Patrick Buchanan and acting White House counsel Leonard Garment. Also with the President were his wife, his two daughters and their husbands. They are expected to stay in Florida through Sunday night or Monday.