

Goldwater Says President Still May Go Before Watergate Panel

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By Donald Lambro
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President Nixon has not "ruled out" going before the Senate Watergate committee for public interrogation, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater said yesterday.

Goldwater, in an interview with United Press International, said Mr. Nixon

told a group of Republican senators at a White House meeting last week that an appearance before the committee was one of several moves he is considering as part of an all-out drive to answer all questions about his scandal-plagued administration.

"He listed several things he might do and one of them was going before the committee," the Arizona Republican said.

Goldwater has been urging Mr. Nixon to do so "and allow the whole country to watch his interrogation." But he said several senators at the meeting last Wednesday "urged him not to do it."

He said he thought Mr. Nixon's latest series of meetings with members of Congress and other appearances to answer questions about Watergate had helped regain "some of his lost credibility."

"But I'm not sure that Operation Candor will in itself

do it," Goldwater said. "He has to demonstrate in a series of incidents that he is a real leader. What he does on this energy crisis will be important."

Goldwater said he thought Mr. Nixon's handling of questions from a group of newspaper editors Saturday was "masterful."

He recalled telling Mr. Nixon in a recent telephone conversation, "Mr. President, I wish you'd do me a favor. Never make another speech. I don't know who's writing your speeches. Just get before the press."

"He's a master at it," Goldwater said in the interview, "and it did him a lot of good. But he still has a long way to go."

He said he had been "fearful of further disclosures" arising in the Watergate scandal "which would absolutely destroy" Mr. Nixon. But he said he now believes the President has halted his plunge in the public opinion polls and will begin to come up.