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Sahl Making Comeback on Watergate

Los Angeles

Mort Sahl is looking to Watergate to boost a comeback.

"I can feel it happening already," said the slim, acidic comedian who recently put out a record album called "Sing a Song of Watergate."

"I'm getting offers to do guest shots, to write screenplays. I even addressed a convention of the American Bankers Association.

"Can you imagine Mort Sahl talking to the American Bankers Association? Incredible!"

CAREER

The same is true of the Sahl career. During the latter part of the Eisenhower years, Sahl burst onto the show business scene with barbs at the establishment.

"It was all right when I was making jokes about the other guys," says Sahl, "but when I started on the Kenne-

dys the liberals tried to destroy me. I went from earnings of \$600,000 in 1962 to \$19,000 in 1963.

It's possible, although Sahl doesn't subscribe to the theory that he became less funny, that perhaps the times, especially after President Kennedy's assassination, were not conducive to his piercing type of humor.

His voice seemed to grow more shrill, and he dashed off on strange, unpopular crusades.

Sahl is hoping that the Watergate happenings will restore him as a political satirist.

ARMY

"I found in the Army that the grimmest of times brought forth the most humor," he said. "It is a black humor, but sometimes that is funniest."

He has been sharpening up his wit by returning to the people who supported his rise to fame in the first place: the college crowd.

"Starting in 1971, I discovered that there was a huge college audience out there," he said.

"I found myself playing to 7,000 people at Long Beach State, 5000 people in Pocatello, Idaho."

Associated Press

