



Watergate 'White Paper'

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The White House has drafted a "white paper" answering charges that Republicans engaged in political espionage and sabotage in the recent campaign, it was learned yesterday.

The document has undergone at least one revision since it was written about four weeks ago. It is not known when a final version may be made public — given pending legal suits — if ever.

But if it is, it would be the

first detailed reply from the Nixon administration on the flurry of allegations about the attempt to bug the Watergate headquarters of the Democratic party and about White House involvement in efforts by Los Angeles lawyer Donald Segretti to harass and disrupt the Democratic election campaign.

Preparation of the paper suggests that President Nixon may be troubled by the shadow cast by the charges on his new administration and wants to lay out the White House version — to put the record straight, it

was said — of events that were the subject of newspaper stories and political attacks.

Presumably the document will draw heavily on the investigation conducted by John W. Dean III, counsel to the President, into both the Watergate case and the subsequently disclosed activities of Segretti, who was linked in news stories to presidential aide Dwight Chapin.

Yesterday Dean was at Camp David, Md., where Mr. Nixon is spending the week.