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Nixon To Seek Rogers Aid In Dealing With Watergate

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WASHINGTON (AP) — ABC News reported Tuesday that President Nixon has called upon Secretary of State William P. Rogers to deal with White House problems stemming from the Watergate case. A presidential spokesman denied it.

ABC correspondent Bill Gill said Nixon wants Rogers to help restore "an impeccable integrity" to the White House operation.

Talking with reporters en route to Washington from Key Biscayne, Fla., Tuesday night, White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said there was "no discussion at all along that line" in a telephone conversation between Nixon and Rogers.

Ziegler also said that Nixon "has made no decision at all regarding staff resignations" that might arise from Watergate.

Gill, who reported that he had been told Rogers conferred secretly with Nixon in Florida over the weekend, later said that their conversation was by telephone.

A State Department spokesman said Rogers spent the weekend in Williamsburg, Va.

Gill quoted White House sources as saying they expect the President to announce that Rogers will personally direct an overhaul of the President's staff.

Late last week, spokesmen at the State Department said Rogers was absent from his office and taking a few days off for rest.

Tuesday the spokesmen wouldn't comment on the report that Nixon had tapped Rogers to direct a top-level housecleaning in the administration.

Also Tuesday, the lawyer for presidential aides John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman was spotted by newsmen first at the White House and later at the office of Watergate prosecutor Earl Silbert.

Sources close to the Senate's Watergate investigation have told The Associated Press that they have evidence indicating Haldeman and Ehrlichman participated in a White House coverup of the facts behind the Watergate wiretapping.

Wilson said his visit to Silbert had no connection with a federal grand jury's investigation of the Watergate matter. It came late in the afternoon, after most newsmen had left the courthouse.

Wilson was seen at the White House by a reporter for Mutual radio news. At the Florida White House earlier deputy press spokesman Gerald Warren had said President Nixon met with Wilson last Thursday at the White House.

Newsmen who repeatedly attempted to contact Ehrlichman Tuesday were told he was in meetings.

Ehrlichman and former Nixon campaign chief Clark MacGregor engaged in a public disagreement over whether Ehrlichman had asked for an internal investigation of the campaign organization last August when the Watergate affair was unfolding.