

Nixon Strategy Story Hit

White House Denounces Post Report as Unfair

6/19/73 Post

The White House accused The Washington Post yesterday of "extreme unfairness" in its report that President Nixon and his aides are developing a new strategy to answer allegations that President Nixon was involved in the Watergate coverup.

The report, which appeared in yesterday's editions of The Post, said the President is expected to defend himself against such allegations by saying he was misled by his former principal deputies, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman. The report was based on accounts by White House and other government sources.

Responding to The Post story, Deputy White House press Secretary Gerald Warren said:

"The anonymous White House sources quoted in today's Washington Post do not have access to the facts and do not speak authoritatively either for the President or members of the White House staff working on the Watergate matter. We have previously pointed out the extreme un-

fairness to all parties of such 'source' stories and we reiterate that position."

The statement follows a pattern of White House responses that neither specifically confirm nor deny the accuracy of information in news accounts related to Watergate developments, but instead question the authoritativeness of the sources cited in such reports.

The report in yesterday's Post said the White House has developed a change in strategy designed to counter anticipated charges by former presidential counsel John W. Dean III that the President, Haldeman and Ehrlichman all knowingly participated in the White House cover-up of the Watergate bugging and other illegal intelligence-gathering operations.

Instead of broadly claiming non-involvement by the President, the story reported, the emerging White House position will be acknowledge misjudgements on the President's part and indicate they resulted from misinformation and unauthorized action by Haldeman and Ehrlichman.