

Obstruction Of Proceedings Probe Requested By Weicker

F Post 6/29/73

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Watergate chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. questioned Thursday whether President Nixon had met his constitutional duty to uphold the law and indicated that the committee wants to hear his response to accusations by John W. Dean III.

And Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., a Republican member of the committee from Connecticut, charged White House attempts had been made to smear him and said he had asked the Watergate special prosecutor to investigate "obstruction of proceedings before special committees."

"If the executive branch of government wants to meet the standards the American people have set for it in their minds, the time has come to either disavow it (pressure attempts) completely or make

the specific charges," he said angrily.

In an emotional climax to Dean's fourth day of testimony, Weicker declared:

"Republicans do not cover up, Republicans do not threaten, Republicans do not permit illegal acts and God knows, Republicans don't view their opponents as enemies to be harassed."

The committee still had not completed its questioning of Dean who testified "it was my assumption without question" that Nixon was informed of the cover-up attempts even before last Sept. 15. He will return Friday.

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., the committee's vice chairman, said information will be solicited from the President "in whatever manner can be arranged."