

Laird Seeks End Of 'Enemies List'

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., June 29—Former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, the newest member of the White House staff, said today he believes the White House "enemies list" should be destroyed.

Laird spoke informally with reporters following a meeting here with President Nixon on a variety of domestic issues. Laird said he was not working on Watergate problems.

Nevertheless, when asked about the list of names of administration "enemies" made public at the Senate investigating hearings, Laird told of his long association with Democratic legislators and said he thought the list compiled at the White House might be destroyed.

Laird said he was confident that Mr. Nixon would hold a news conference but that he thought it would not be advisable to do so while the Senate hearings are underway. When asked, if the hearings might go on until September, he said he hoped they would be concluded "as rapidly as possible."

Laird did not hold out hope of a reduction in food prices for some months, pointing out that the effect in the grocery store of increased production on the American farm might not be felt for 18 months.

He attributed the food price rise to the worldwide food shortage and demand.

Laird said some people might have overreacted to his comment to David Broder of The Washington Post that press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler's usefulness as a presiden-

tial spokesman might be at an end.

Ziegler told reporters that Mr. Nixon, on seeing Laird's remarks, assured him that he was remaining as press secretary and spokesman.

Ziegler also said, when asked if Mr. Nixon might submit a sworn statement to the Senate investigating committee, that there had been no discussion at the White House about a sworn statement, adding, "I don't anticipate that."

Asked a number of questions about Watergate, Laird emphasized that he was working on other problems and said he was conferring with all Cabinet heads and Mayor Walter E. Washington of the District of Columbia.

He said he called on Washington this week to discuss District affairs and felt the city was fortunate to have Washington as mayor.

When asked about the legislation to increase Social Security payments, Laird said he would urge a veto unless Congress provided means of paying for the boost.

"Congress must assume responsibility for financing, and Secretary (of the Treasury George B.) Shultz agrees with me," Laird said.