

White House Word On Political Probes

Washington

The White House indirectly conceded yesterday that some staffers circulated memos in 1972 urging use of government agencies like the Secret Service to gather information on President Nixon's political opponents.

Deputy press secretary Gerald Warren also implicitly admitted that information from a Secret Service agent who was protecting Senator George S. McGovern (Dem-S.D.), the Democratic nominee, was passed to the White House through one of its congressional liaison officials.

But he refused to discuss the memos — 24 of which are said to exist.

MEMOS

Most staff members involved in the memos have left in the wake of the Watergate scandal, and part of

the reason the White House was circumspect in handling the matter is that the Senate Watergate committee will take it up when it resumes in September.

Mr. Nixon will make his long-awaited speech on Watergate the middle of next week, Warren said. Other staff members said the President is expected to speak to the nation from the White House.

After the speech, the President will be having a press conference and answering questions there and in other forums, Warren added. He did not identify the other forums.

Warren was bombarded with questions about the 1972 staff memos and the alleged Secret Service agent's activity.

He acknowledged that the White House congressional liaison formed Max G. Friedlander, a former White House counsel, and deputy White House counsel Fred Fielding, part of whose work

involved the memos and are still on the staff, did not discuss certain information which they had received as a result of the memos.

TRAILS

As to the bulk of the story, Warren continued, "I don't want to discuss the memos that apparently were being circulated in the White House at various levels prior to the election, or discuss in detail the procedures apparently then in place for memos which are no longer in place for different reasons."

"We're now operating in a different time, with different methods," he added.

Warren declined to say whether Mr. Nixon knew of the memos.

He said he did not know whether the memos were being used to gather information on political opponents, but he said he did not know whether the memos were being used to gather information on political opponents.

The Times Staff