

While he declined to say what forum—a public speech, a statement, or interview—Ziegler said the President definitely plans to “speak to this matter in a way he considers appropriate at the time.”

But Ziegler said flatly that the President would not appear before the Ervin committee, would not send it a written statement and would not invite its members to meet him informally at the White House.

“The President feels he has a responsibility to the office of President” to observe the constitutional requirement of a separation of powers, the press secretary said.

“He has a responsibility to maintain the prerogatives of the Executive Branch,” Ziegler commented.

This is the first time the spokesman has said flatly that Mr. Nixon has no plans for a news conference or a public comment on Watergate until

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