

Goldwater Cites Decline In Nixon's Credibility

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said yesterday that President Nixon's credibility "has reached an all-time low from which he may not be able to recover." He said an appearance before the Senate Watergate committee "may offer the only way out" for the beleaguered President.

Goldwater, probably the most influential conservative voice in the Senate and the country, issued his formal statement after learning of the White House announcement that two of the nine subpoenaed presidential tapes do not exist.

His comment, issued by his office while the senator was out of the city, was regarded by Capitol Hill observers as the most ominous signal of deteriorating Re-

publican support for Mr. Nixon to surface so far.

Goldwater urged "all Americans to allow him (the President) the benefit of the doubt until Judge (John) Sirica, after hearing the testimony of so-called experts, can announce his opinion of the mystery of the lost tapes.

"As one schooled in electronics," he said, "I can understand it, but as a practical person in close touch with the American people, I doubt that they will accept this.

"I repeat the suggestion I made to my President a long time ago," Goldwater said, "that he go up to Capitol Hill and appear before the Ervin committee and answer questions.

"I feel now more than ever that this may offer the only way out."