

Nixon's Remarks at Tanaka Dinner Indicate Tough Stand on
His Watergate Critics

He Talks of Obsession With 'Petty' Occurrences

by R.W. Apple

Washington, Aug. 1 - President Nixon appears to have decided upon an unyielding stance toward his Watergate critics.

The latest example of his unremittingly hard line came last night in an unlikely setting - a glittering, black-tie state dinner for the Japanese Premier, Kakuei Tanaka.

In the midst of an encomium to friendly Japanese-American cooperation, the President suddenly said: "Let others spend their time dealing with the murky, small, unimportant, vicious little things. We have spent our time and will spend our time building a better world."

Moments later, the President again interrupted the main thrust of his toast to urge that the nation "not let ourselves be remembered only for the petty, little, indecent things that seem to obsess us at a time when the world is going by."

Mr. Nixon never used the word Watergate, and Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, refused this morning to say what the President had been talking about. But other White House sources said that it was Watergate, noting that it was inconceivable that Mr. Nixon could have been alluding to "petty, little, indecent things" obsessing those involved in Japanese American relations.

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