

Republicans Expressing Concern Over Developments

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You wake up in the morning and hope it goes away, but you go home at night and it's still with you."

Only minutes before, Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr., Republican of Maryland, had been standing in a nearly deserted Senate chamber, telling of his fears and concerns over possible wrongdoing by Administration officials and others in positions of political power.

Now, relaxing on a black leather sofa in the President's room, just off the Senate floor, he was explaining what had prompted him to speak out.

"He is deeply concerned, he said, both as a Republican whose party's future could be in jeopardy and as an American who senses a sharp decline in public confidence of elected officials at all levels of government.

The Watergate bugging, the attempt by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation to influence foreign policy, the nomination of L. Patrick Gray 3d to be director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation—all of these, he said, "pose a serious moral question for the whole country."

Others Show Concern

Senator Mathias is a Republican liberal who has been at odds with the Nixon Administration over other issues in the past.

But he is one of a growing number of Republicans, liberals and conservatives alike, who have expressed concern in recent days over the political impact of these three issues on the future of their party.

Before Senator Mathias spoke the Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, told newsmen that Senators of his party were very much concerned about the political impact of the Watergate case.

Senator Scott said that although the "general public seems to be dismissing the matter as a quarrel between political parties, those of us whose profession is politics are deep-

ly disturbed at any developments which taint the political process."

Others, too, have expressed concern over the Administration's handling of the case involving the bugging of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate last summer.

George Bush, the Republican National Chairman, described the case as "grubby" and added that the matter would have adverse effect if it was not "promptly and fully cleared up."

"There appears to be growing concern about it and there is no point hiding it," he told a conference of Young Republican leaders. "It is not good for the political party as a whole."

"The longer you prolong some kind of mystery or scandal, the worse it becomes," Senator Norris Cotton, Republican of New Hampshire, said last week. "This business of stringing this thing along is poor tactics. There's nothing that could be brought out that would be as detrimental as letting this thing go on."

Loyalty Conflict Seen

In his floor speech today, Senator Mathias said that a conflict of loyalties "has poisoned public ethical behavior and lies at the heart of skepticism about government and politics."

This issue of conflicting loyalties, he went on, is posed in the three Senate inquiries into the Watergate bugging, I.T.T.

influence abroad and the Gray nomination.

"The common question that must be answered in all three is whether the persons involved gave a greater loyalty to some lesser interest than to the Constitution," he said.

The only way to restore confidence and trust in government, he said, "is for everyone who shares the privilege of leadership to obey the law."

Later, during an interview, Mr. Mathias was asked if he included President Nixon among those who had contributed to the loss of public confidence in government.

"Yes, I would include everyone who holds public office in America and is supposed to be leading," he replied.

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"These jobs we have, they're something we're dedicating our lives to, just like any other career," he said, "but if they're not being done right, then it's hardly worth that kind of commitment."

Mr. Mathias said that his own concern over the future of the Republican party was "generally shared" by others within its ranks.

The Senator said that the war in Vietnam had caused many young people to become disillusioned about government.

"Now, if we compound that feeling by giving them reason to doubt the integrity of the political system, the loss may be unrecoverable," he said. "There's still time, but it's running out."