

Goldwater Warns Nixon On Watergate

By Susanna McBee

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) likened the Watergate case to the Teapot Dome scandal and said in an interview published yesterday that he has urged President Nixon to speak out personally on the issue.

Otherwise, Goldwater told the Christian Science Monitor, Republican candidates will be hurt in the 1974 election and the GOP will be unable to elect a Republican President in 1976.

Presidential counselor Anne Armstrong, at a breakfast meeting with reporters, said Goldwater is "absolutely right" in asserting that the Watergate case is hampering the party's fund-raising efforts.

"Yes, we are being hurt now," she said. "But I am convinced the administration is determined to clear this up to the satisfaction of the American public. So in the long run, I don't think it will be a detriment [to the party]."

Goldwater's strong language was striking since in the past the former GOP standard-bearer has tended to shrug off the bugging and break-in last June 17 of the Democratic National Committee headquarters.

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ters in the Watergate apartment complex.

As recently as Jan. 23 he said on the Dick Cavett television show that bugging and political espionage are nothing new in American politics and that he himself had been bugged when he ran for President in 1964.

Conjuring up visions of Teapot Dome is touchy business since the term was one that the Democrats flung at Republicans for years to signify corruption.

It was the name of Wyoming oil land set aside for Navy war use, and in the early 1920s Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall quietly leased Teapot Dome and other reserved land in California to private oil interests without competitive bidding. Later, Teapot Dome came to symbolize all scandals in the Warren G. Harding administration.

In the Monitor interview Goldwater said, "The Watergate. The Watergate. It's beginning to be like Teapot Dome. I mean, there's a smell to it. Let's get rid of the smell."

The senator, who praised the Nixon foreign and domestic policy, said he sees the Watergate issue as raising the question: "Can you trust Dick Nixon? It gets right down to that."

"All of us who support Nixon are going to be on the line in the 1974 election. When they say, 'Are you still supporting the President?' I'd say, 'Yes, I'm still supporting the President.' And I'd say that even if . . . No, I won't say that. I might not support him if it turns out he knew all about this and kept his mouth shut. But I don't think he knows about it."

Goldwater disclosed that he has received "letters and calls from Republican friends of mine all around the country, and they are saying, 'No more money to the Republican National Committee until this is cleared up.'"

"When you find staunch, hard-working Republicans refusing to help the party—well, I can tell you we're having a helluva time selling tickets to the Republican gala dinner in May here in Washington. And it is because of the Watergate."

Describing his efforts to persuade Mr. Nixon to speak about the case, in which seven men have been convicted of bugging the Democratic headquarters, the Arizonan said:

"I have called on the President to do this. I called for this when I saw him out in California at the John Ford dinner a week or so ago; and I told him again, 'You've got to say something about this.'"

"He has to. The President has to give assurances. I think the people will believe him. I don't want to see this man end his term with something hanging over him that will keep the Republicans from electing another President on the mere idea that 'well, we couldn't trust that Nixon, and how could we trust former Treasury Secretary John Connally or Vice President Agnew or John Doe or whoever?'"

Goldwater declared that he and other party leaders are beginning to see the Water-

gate affair as "an instrument, whether it is valid or not, whether it is true or false, that can destroy Mr. Nixon's image."

Asked what the President can say, the senator replied, "I don't know. If there's something to the whole charge of unusual, peculiar happenings in the Watergate incident, he's got to admit it. If there's nothing, he's got to say there's nothing—which he has said repeatedly through other people. But he, himself, has to have a press conference where he spells it out."

Presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler declined to comment yesterday on Goldwater's statement other than to note his March 30 announcement that White House staff members will testify before a federal grand jury investigating the case and will work out a procedure to cooperate with a Senate probe headed by Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.).

Goldwater said of the offer to allow staff testimony before a grand jury: "I don't think it goes far enough."

He suggested that in aiding the Ervin select committee White House aides like presidential assistant H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and counsel John W. Dean III should give sworn testimony privately to Ervin and Sen. Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.). Then if Ervin and Baker "feel they have a story to tell . . . let it be made public," Goldwater said.

The senator added that the political situation "is salvageable" for Republicans "if the President was not involved."

But if Mr. Nixon or Haldeman or Dean were involved,

Goldwater warned, "there's no way" to salvage the situation.

The Ervin committee has said it has no evidence linking Haldeman with any illegal activities in the 1972 campaign. James W. McCord Jr., a convicted Watergate conspirator, has testified that his hiring as security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President was cleared through Dean.

Goldwater, however, told the Monitor: "Now John Dean happens to be an old roommate of my son's. And I've talked to him. I've never pumped him. But I asked him, 'Is there any truth in this?' And he said, 'Not at all.' And I believe this kid."

Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.), a member of the Ervin committee, said yesterday he does not agree with Goldwater that GOP congressional candi-

dates would be hurt next year.

"Individual congressmen and individual senators were not associated with the Watergate at all, and I think the electorate back home is going to judge them on their performance, their record, and not what some cops-and-robbers college sophomores in the White House—or outside the White House—did in the presidential campaign," Gurney said on the NBC-TV "Today" show.

Goldwater, however, indicated he was concerned about his own re-election chances. "It's Goldwater's neck I'm talking about," he told the Monitor.

"I've been traveling, as I have always traveled, weekend after weekend, making speeches around this country, and I have been getting this from Republicans in every

state. Whereas four or five months ago, no one ever asked me about Watergate."