

Lipset Quits Watergate Quiz

San Francisco investigator Harold (Hal) Lipset last night submitted his resignation to the Senate select committee investigating the Watergate affair.

Lipset told the Chronicle from Washington:

"I was informed today that there will be statements in the press that I was involved in certain unlawful activities in the past.

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importance to this country; and I want to make sure that my presence in no way impedes the important job they are doing.

"It's my belief that the efforts to discredit me come from enemies of the committee." He did not elaborate on these "enemies."

Lipset said that "within five minutes" after news of his resignation became known, "I had calls from

"My only criminal conviction was of a misdemeanor in New York State (in 1966 for eavesdropping), for which I received no sentence or fine.

"Nevertheless, because of my high regard for the Senate, for Senator (Sam) Ervin and (committee counsel) Sam Dash, I have submitted my resignation."

Ervin, a North Carolina

two separate parties asking me to stay in Washington

He said he could not reveal the names of those who approached him, and "anyway, I don't think I could stay on here and work for them, because I have obtained a lot of confidential material that rightly belongs to the (Select) committee, and there would be a conflict of interest."

Lipset, one of the acknowledged masters of electronic snooping in the private in-

vestigator field, was indicted here in 1951 on a tax evasion conspiracy charge. A U.S. district judge later directed a verdict of acquittal. He was arrested in New Jersey in 1960 while investigating dissident members of the Teamsters Union at the behest of Dash, who was then attorney for the secretary - treasurer of a Philadelphia Tamsters local.

The charges were later dismissed. Lipset said yesterday that if Ervin and Dash refuse to accept his resignation, "of course I will stay on."

"Actually, I'm kind of flattered that a San Francisco boy would draw this much effort by enemies of the committee to throw him out.

"If my resignation is accepted, I'll just come home to San Francisco and take care of my business. It's costing me money to be away from it, and anyway, Washington can't hold a candle to San Francisco."

Democrat, is chairman of the select committee. He was en route to his home state last night and unavailable for comment on Lipset's resignation.

Lipset told The Chronicle: "I am not leaving this committee because of any feelings of guilt, but I believe the work of the select committee is of the utmost im-

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