White House 'Impatience' on Watergate

Miami

President Nixon's hopes for overcoming the damage done to his administration by the Watergate scandals rest on a speedy disclosure of those involved and the avoidance of a long Senate hearing, White House aides said yesterday.

These aides, who apparently still enjoy the confidence of the President, said that the trouble for the President is that two or three of those so involved are resisting a complete disclosure and are thus endangering

the ability of the presidency to function as it should during the remainder of Mr. Nixon's term.

A White House spokesman flatly denied yesterday that Mr. Nixon himself had any prior knowledge of the Watergate burglary last summer by members of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said: "He did not know."

CLOSE

The White House aides would not say who the two or three officials or former

officials resisting disclosure are. But the belief among those close to the President that a quick identification of the guilty is essential was reinforced by the sudden reversal in the official White House attitude about the case.

Until last Tuesday, when Mr. Nixon said new information had come to his attention about the case and that he had requested that no major officials or former officials be granted immunity from prosecution, the White House had issued denials on involvements and had discouraged all inquiries by the

press. Since then, some officials have encouraged newspaper investigations.

FRAB

The fear of some close to the President is that delay would mean drawn-out hearings before the Senate committee, headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem-N.C.), in which the Administration would be "dragged through the mud" and the presidency as an institution damaged in the process. Avoidance of this, according to these sources, would serve the best interests of the country.

The President's mood, ac-

cording to some of his associates, in the past few days has been one of angry impatience to get the matter settled.

At his cabinet meeting in Washington on Friday morning, he said during a discussion of the Watergate affair that there had been "incredible jackassary" in the whole thing and he was anxious to get to the bottom of it. He left the impression that he would like to clear himself and expose the culprits.

HURT

According to reports from the meeting, the Presi-

dent said he was afraid that some of the information that had been emerging from the grand jury investigation of the matter would hurt innocent people.

He turned to Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and said it seemed some of the leaks were coming from the "prosecuting team" in the case and he hoped such leaks would stop.

Kleindienst, according to the reports, said he thought copies of the grand jury transcript were being leaked by members of the jury.

At that point, the Pres-

ident was reported to have turned to his attorney general, looked at him angrily and said, "Now, Dick, you know as well as I do that members of the grand jury do not have access to copies of the transcript."

CASE

Meantime, there are increasing indications that a White House staff shakeup as a result of the Watergate case will be forthcoming.

Mr. Nixon has been on an Easter holiday at his Key Biscayne home since Friday. He spent Sunday afternoon and Sunday night at

Grand Cay, the Bahamas, with businessmen friends, C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo and Robert Abplanalp.

There was evidence, however, that this has been anything but a relaxed holiday for the President. Warren acknowledged in a tense briefing yesterday that the President had been on the telephone both from his home and in the Bahamas to staff members and others. He did not disclose whom the President talked to, other than Henry A. Kissinger, his foreign affairs assistant.

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