

Ziegler Says He's Sorry

Washington

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler publicly apologized to the Washington Post yesterday for past harsh criticism of its investigative reporting of the Watergate conspiracy.

Asked if he would apologize in the wake of President Nixon's TV-radio statement Monday night that a "vigorous free press" helped uncover the truth about Watergate, Ziegler replied:

"Yes, I would apologize to the Post."

He then volunteered an apology to Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward who, he said, vig-

orously pursued the story, deserved credit for their work and are receiving it.

"When we're wrong, we're wrong," the White House spokesman said.

Last October 25, Ziegler characterized one Post account as "a blatant effort at character assassination and I do not think has been witnessed in the political process in some time."

When asked about another Post account on October 16, Ziegler said, "I will not dignify with comment stories based on hearsay, character assassination, innuendo, guilt by association."

"I will dignify with comment Mr. Ziegler's apology; it's entirely welcome," said



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RONALD ZIEGLER Apology to press

Harry Rosenfeld, metropolitan editor of the Post and the man in charge of the work done by Bernstein and Woodward.

Associated Press