

McGovern Scores Nixon On Attitude on Watergate

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WASHINGTON, May 2 (AP) — Senator George McGovern accused President Nixon today of implying that the Watergate case was typical of American politics and called it the worst campaign scandal in modern times.

"The Watergate scandal is not, as the President implied, typical of the political process," Senator McGovern told the American Society of Newspaper Editors. "Our politics is better than that."

"And Watergate is worse than the tactics of any national campaign in my memory or modern times," the 1972 Democratic Presidential nominee said. "What was wrong with Watergate was not just that the President's associates got caught, but what they did."

"The standard of conduct set by the Committee to Re-Elect the President was simply unprecedented," the South Dakotan said.

"I have no doubt that the ethical standards of American politics can be improved," Mr. McGovern added. "But we must wonder about Mr. Nixon's reference to 'campaign excesses' that have occurred on all sides."

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"I emphatically reject the notion that I or my colleagues or my party in the Presidential election condoned or would have countenanced activities of a criminal nature."

Earlier, J. Edward Murray, associate editor of The Detroit Free Press, who is president of the editors' society, said that the Watergate case "looks like President Nixon's Waterloo in a long war with the free press."

Mr. Murray said that persistent investigative reporting had broken the Watergate case despite resistance from the Administration.

Mr. McGovern called on the country to help the President "restore fully the credibility and capacity of the Government he leads."

"These are difficult days for President Nixon," Mr. McGovern said. "He is the elected leader of the nation, and he is struggling to restore his leadership. We must help him for the sake of the office he holds."

The Senator said there was no direct evidence to implicate



Associated Press

Senator George S. McGovern pausing during a speech to newspaper editors in Washington yesterday.

Mr. Nixon in the planning of political espionage, sabotage and subsequent cover-up. And he said he believed Mr. Nixon's denial of involvement.