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**Panel May
Ask Talk
By Nixon**

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President Nixon may be invited "to state his side of the case" to the Senate select committee investigating the Watergate affair, Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), the vice chairman of the committee, said yesterday.

Baker, the ranking Republican member of the committee, said the President may be invited to comment on the Watergate case "through counsel, by statement or otherwise," but that it is probably not legally possible to subpoena Mr. Nixon to appear in person before the committee.

Baker made the comments on the NBC-TV program "Meet the Press."

The Senate committee, which begins its public hearings Thursday, has already listed among the witnesses it intends to call some of the President's closest advisers, including former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, former chief domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman, former White House counsel John W. Dean III and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell. The committee has not formally announced plans to seek a statement from Mr. Nixon himself.

In his television appearance, Sen. Baker sidestepped direct answers to questions about President Nixon's possible involvement in the Watergate case or an alleged White House cover-up of the affair, saying it would not serve any public purpose to state who he thinks is or is not involved.

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Senate Committee May Invite Nixon

BAKER, From A1

Asked whether the President is being investigated by the Senate committee, Baker said:

"There is no person in the United States who is not potentially to be investigated in conjunction with this matter if it relates in a logical way to the scope and jurisdiction of this committee. We are going to examine every lead, we are going to examine every suggestion, and we are going to take into account every statement wherever that leads us."

Baker said repeatedly during the interview that he will pursue the facts of the case "wherever they lead me." Asked if he is convinced the President did not know of White House involvement in the Watergate affair until March, as Mr. Nixon has said, Baker said, "... I exclude no one from potential involvement."

In response to another question, however, Baker said he "has no reason to disbelieve" the President public statements about the Watergate case.

Baker said that if the President is guilty of involvement in the Watergate affair "clearly he would be impeached." But, Baker added, the issue of impeachment depends entirely on the facts that are discovered in the case.

Newsweek magazine reported last week that former

White House counsel Dean concluded last year that Mr. Nixon had knowledge at that time of an effort to cover up White House involvement in the Watergate bugging. The Washington Post reported Saturday that former acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III has told Senate investigators that last July he warned Mr. Nixon that he was "confused" by the role of White House aides in the Watergate investigation and that their actions could lead to trouble for the President.

Baker said there is no one now working in the White House whom he suspects of wrongdoing, "but that does not exclude the possibility that information might lead in that direction."

Baker also called for reforms in campaign financing, saying that "money is the string upon which many of these pearls are strung."

On the CBS television program "Face the Nation," Rep. John B. Anderson (R-Ill.) said talk of impeachment "has not reached serious proportions" on Capitol Hill and that such discussions do "a disservice to the system and are inappropriate at this time."

Both Anderson and Sen. William Brock (R-Tenn.) said large, unreported cash campaign contributions were one of the root causes of the Watergate scandal. They called for legislation requiring continual public disclosure of all campaign contributions.