

'I'm Fed Up With It'

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Reagan's Silence on Watergate

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Governor Ronald Reagan suddenly silenced himself on the Watergate bugging scandal yesterday, saying it is "none of my business" and "I'm fed up with it."

The Republican chief executive, who has commented freely on Watergate in the past, issued a two-paragraph statement ruling the subject off-limits at his weekly Capitol press conferences.

"Now that the Watergate controversy is under federal investigation, and is before a grand jury, the courts and the Senate, I will make no

further statement regarding any of the allegations or any of the individuals involved," said Reagan.

"Actually, the purpose of these press conferences is, and should be, to discuss California state issue, particularly those relating to state government."

Reagan has never before issued such a blanket refusal to comment on non-state issues and the announcement brought a sharp response from newsmen who in the past six years have reported Reagan's views on a wide range of topics, from foreign policy to movies.

To one persistent questioner who asked "why the change", Reagan said he

imposed the rule "so that we could talk about state issues for a while."

Reagan said "for some time now I've been a little frustrated" because while many things have taken place in California "we've been spending our time talking about things that are none of our business."

"None of my business, in here, anyway," added Reagan.

Asked whether he would discuss Watergate on his frequent trips outside California as a Republican party spokesman, Reagan said, "Nope, I'm fed up with it."

"Well, maybe we'll do that after we solve the problems of California," amended

Reagan.

On other subjects Reagan said he thinks all the world's energy sources must be explored. He was responding to a query as to whether the state should allow a resumption of oil drilled on state-owned tidelands.

The State Lands Commission imposed a moratorium on new drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel in 1969 after a federal-leased well blew out and polluted the channel.

State Controller Houston Flournoy, a commission member, said last week he might vote to lift the ban if the oil industry can show a capability to drill with no ecological harm.