

# McGovern Asks Nixon To Tell All

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Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.), breaking a long post-election silence on the Watergate case, has called on President Nixon to "tell everything he knows" to the Senate Watergate committee, the federal grand jury and to the American people through a full-blown press conference.

The 1972 Democratic presidential nominee, in an interview with Elizabeth Drew for the Public Broadcasting Service to be aired at 6:30 p.m. today, said Mr. Nixon "has got to quit acting like he's a monarch, beyond the reach of the press, Congress and beyond the reach of the judicial system."

"He's a human being, he's the servant of the people," McGovern said, "and he's got to lay out his case in as clear and concise a way as possible, if he expects to restore some measure of confidence."

"The whole electoral process, I think, is now in doubt. I'm beginning to understand what Mr. Nixon meant a few months ago when he insisted that South Vietnamese elections were as honest as ours. Apparently that's true, if we can look back on what happened last fall."

McGovern, while pressing the President to testify publicly about Watergate, said it was "premature even to talk about" suggestions that Mr. Nixon resign.

"Certainly we ought to wait until the grand jury has completed its work, wait until the Ervin Committee, which I think is doing a good job, completes its work," he said. "And then there's plenty of time to talk about what the President's course ought to be."

McGovern also said on the public television interview that he does not believe the Watergate bugging and related acts of political espionage by the Nixon re-election team "materially affected the election."

However, he said, had the American people "known and fully understood" the cover-up of the Watergate by administration and re-election campaign officials, "I think the outcome of the election would have been entirely different."

The South Dakota senator said he will "never fully understand" why the Watergate issue did not take hold during the campaign, despite his repeated recitation of its chief elements in stump speeches and on television.

Recalling his campaign charge that President Nixon headed "the most morally corrupt administration in American history," McGovern said: "Some people thought that was exaggeration, but as far as I'm concerned that statement is still operative."

He was not more effective, he suggested, because Americans "want to believe in the president . . . they were reluctant to accept the indications of moral breakdown and corruption in this administration."

In addition, McGovern said, some of his own campaign mistakes "tended . . . to divert attention from some of the wrongdoing that was going on on the other side."

The 1972 Democratic standard-bearer said campaign charges that he was "inconsistent" and "incompetent in the way we handled our staff" would have paled if compared with the inconsistencies of Nixon aides on Watergate and their incompetence in that matter.

Of the 1972 campaign, he said: "We didn't think you had to run a campaign as though it was a war. We didn't apply security checks on everybody, we didn't apply lie detectors . . . We felt that this was a decent, hon-

orable, honest country, and that we didn't have to be on guard against things of that kind."

Exposure of the Watergate, he said, in the long run will be constructive because "it's going to break that palace guard around the President. He's not going to be so isolated from here on out from the Congress, from the press, even from the leaders of his own Administration."

In a speech yesterday at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase high school graduation of his youngest child, Mary, McGovern also charged that in using national security as a defense for political spying, "our system has been made more insecure than it has been since the Civil War."

The student audience stood and applauded for McGovern, who won the school's straw poll against President Nixon last year. He said he hoped the Watergate case will persuade future Presidents that they do not have "a mandate to rule behind closed doors without reference to the Congress, to the press and to the American people."