

Weicker's Blast at Nixon Aides

Washington

Senator Lowell F. Weicker Jr. (Rep.-Conn.) charged yesterday that the White House has tried to intimidate him and the Senate Watergate probe, and said he has asked the special Watergate prosecutor to investigate.

In a ringing defense of his credentials as a Republican, Weicker also said alleged White House actions in regard to the Watergate case are not typical of the party.

"Republicans do not cover up," he said. "Republicans do not threaten, do not commit illegal acts, and God knows Republicans don't view their opponents as enemies to be harassed."

Weicker said there had been efforts to spread stories that there were irregularities in the financing of his 1970 Senate campaign.

MONIES

Within the last few days Weicker said, "a reporter from Washington, D.C., was informed by former White House aide Charles Colson that he was involved in the giving of monies to my campaign and that he had reason to believe the money wasn't properly handled and I was being a disloyal Republican and the time has come to swing around."

"When pinned to substan-

Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

tiate this report, there was absolutely no substantiation by Mr. Colson," Weicker said. "But that was enough to finally go ahead and get me a little mad."

Weicker said that, in response to a public comment he made that efforts were being made to pressure him, he got a phone call from presidential counselor Leonard Garment, who asked what was wrong.

PROBLEM

"I told Mr. Garment that Mr. Colson is his problem, and wasn't my problem, the time had come either to step forward and make a specific charge or to disavow these attempts to smear a member of this committee.

"But I don't think that is enough," Weicker said. "So this morning I communicated with Mr. Archibald Cox, the special prosecutor."

Weicker said he told Cox

he thought he had enough evidence to indicate "a possible violation of yet another law." He then referred to a statute covering obstruction of a congressional investigation.

Colson, who left the White House in March, denied trying to intimidate Weicker.

"At no time have I never tried to interfere with the activities of the Senate Committee," Colson said in a statement issued from his Washington law office.

ASSISTANCE

Colson said the news story originated when a reporter asked him about White House assistance in Weicker's 1970 campaign. He said Weicker was given help but none that was illegal.

"I know of nothing improper or in any way out of the ordinary with respect to any assistance Senator Weicker received from any Republi-

can organization in 1970 — nor have I ever suggested there was," Colson said.

Weicker said he learned in early April of stories circulating that he was among Republican candidates receiving money from the White House in 1970, some of which was not reported.

The freshman senator also read into the record part of a transcript of a March 28 telephone conversation between then-Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and then-presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman.

TRANSCRIPT

Ehrlichman is quoted in the transcript as saying the White House was worried about Weicker's statements that he had information that administration officials were involved in the Watergate affair.

The transcript contains the following exchange:

Ehrlichman: "Well, our

uneducated and uninformed impression was that he was trying to develop an attack line here on the White House or the President."

Kleindienst: "If that, if we would conclude that that is what he's up to, that he is completely alienated, then I say we've got to take him on ..."

EXPERIENCE

"I think I have had sufficient personal experience, both in the taped telephone conversation and this nebulous threat as to campaign funds, so there is possible violation of yet another law," Weicker said.

"Among the rumors are three different occasions, plants that I am such a disloyal Republican I am going to switch to the Democratic party," Weicker said.

"I say before you and I say before this committee, I am here as a Republican,

quite frankly I express the feelings of the other 42 Republican senators I work with, the Republicans of the state of Connecticut, and in fact the Republican Party are far better than these illegal, unconstitutional and gross acts which have been committed these past months," Weicker said.

APPLAUSE

Weicker's speech was followed by heavy applause from spectators in the Senate Caucus Room, who were gavelled to order by Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. (Rep.-Tenn.), co-chairman.

The telephone transcript also referred to Baker as having told Weicker "to shut up" about White House involvement in Watergate. Both senators denied this.

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III, who has been testifying before the committee all week, also told of a meeting with

Weicker in May in which Dean told Weicker, "I was aware of the fact there was an effort to embarrass you ..."

LETTER

Weicker also said the White House had been out of line in accusing former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, in a letter from Nixon's special counsel, J. Fred Buzhardt, of taking part in the coverup.

"I think, Mr. Chairman, the American people should know that the author of this White House memorandum ... makes statements of facts concerning John Mitchell, which in effect assume that he took part in a conspiracy to break and enter, that he took part in obstructing justice and suborning perjury, and all this without an admission or a conviction of John Mitchell."

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