

# G.O.P. Senator Charges Attempts to Intimidate Him

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WASHINGTON, June 28—Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. charged today that supporters of President Nixon had tried to intimidate him since he became a member of the Senate Watergate committee. The Connecticut Republican said at the end of today's hearings that he had reported these attempts to the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, so that Mr. Cox could

Telephone conversation text appears on Page 26.

determine whether someone had violated the law against trying to obstruct the proceedings of a Congressional committee.

Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, the committee's ranking Republican, declared that the committee would also investigate Senator Weicker's charges.

Though John W. Dean 3d was at the witness table, Senator Weicker virtually ignored him as he began to speak this afternoon, concentrating instead on the spectators in the Senate caucus room and on the television cameras.

After recounting what he said amounted to efforts to harass him, the 44-year-old Senator shifted his bulky frame for

Continued on Page 26, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

ward on his elbows, set his jaw and began an intense monologue.

"I say before you and before the American people that I'm here as a Republican," he declared. "And I think I express the feelings of the 42 other Republican Senators and the Republicans of Connecticut and the feelings of the Republican party far better than those who committed illegal, unconstitutional and gross acts."

Senator Weicker has a habit of letting his voice trail off at the end of sentences, but today he spoke loudly and firmly. He continued:

"Republicans do not cover up. Republicans do not go ahead and threaten. Republicans do not go ahead and commit illegal acts. And, God knows, Republicans don't view their fellow Americans as enemies to be harassed. But, rather, I can assure you, that this Republican, and those that I serve with, look upon every American as a human being to be loved and won."

With that, the Senator leaned back in his chair, and the spectators, most of whom were young, broke into applause.

Mr. Weicker bolstered his case for attempted intimidation by reading the transcript of a taped telephone conversation between John D. Ehrlichman and Richard G. Kleindienst. The transcript had been subpoenaed by the committee and provided by Mr. Ehrlichman.

The conversation took place on March 28, two days after Mr. Weicker had said in an interview that he had evidence that top White House officials had participated in or condoned political espionage.

At that time, Mr. Ehrlichman was President Nixon's chief domestic adviser and Mr. Kleindienst was Attorney General. Both men resigned on April 30.

According to the transcript, Mr. Ehrlichman suggested that President Nixon thought that Mr. Kleindienst ought to "take a swing" at Mr. Weicker in a news conference.

## Confrontation Questioned

Mr. Kleindienst questioned the "advisability of provoking a confrontation with Weicker." The former Attorney General then related that Senator Baker had had a "long talk" with Mr. Weicker and had "told him to shut up."

Both Senator Weicker and Senator Baker deny that such a talk took place.

"Howard Baker has never in any manner, shape or form ever told Senator Weicker to shut up," Mr. Weicker remarked.

Mr. Kleindienst then went on to say, according to the transcript, that he believed Senator Weicker was "essentially with us" but that "if we would conclude that he is completely alienated, then I say we've got to take him on."

In contrast with the flat monotone in which Mr. Dean had read his long statement earlier in the week, Senator Weicker added to his reading of the transcript of the telephone conversation the inflections of voice that the imagined Mr. Ehrlichman and Mr. Kleindienst using.

He then outlined other incidents that he said reflected an attempt by the President's supporters to discredit him.

He said that there were "White House efforts" to find illegal or unethical practices in connection with the financing of his 1970 race for the Senate. The efforts, he said, proved to be unsuccessful.

Mr. Dean said that, while he was still at the White House, there were efforts to "embarrass" Mr. Weicker by investigating his campaign contributions.

## Other Charges Made

Mr. Weicker also said that present or former White House aides — he specifically mentioned Charles W. Colson, the former Presidential counselor — had tried to plant articles with newsmen that Mr. Weicker was guilty of campaign irregularities and thinking about switching political parties.

As far as Mr. Weicker has determined, none of these alleged articles was ever printed, presumably because they could not be confirmed.

Mr. Colson issued a statement tonight saying that he did not know what Mr. Weicker was talking about and that he had never tried to interfere with the activities of the committee.

Samuel Dash, the Watergate committee's chief counsel, said that no other Senator had complained of attempted intimidation.

## Rail Ton-Mileage Up 9.1%

WASHINGTON, June 28

(UPI)—The House sent to the White House today a bill to lower employe contributions to the railroad pension fund and allow employers to increase freight rates to compensate for their increased payments. The measure, passed on a voice vote, was cleared by House and Senate conferees Monday and won speedy Senate approval.