

Says Tapes Needed Now

New York

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut said yesterday that unless President Nixon released immediately all the tapes and memoranda relating to Watergate the confidence of the American people in the presidency would not be restored.

Appearing on the "Face the Nation" program of the Columbia Broadcasting System, the Republican member of the Senate Select Committee on Watergate said that the statement the President plans to issue this week outlining his position on the Watergate break-in "will not be enough."

And, the senator stressed, the President would have to release the relevant tapes and documents "on his own initiative and not as a reaction, either to the court or to the committee."

Weicker, whose hard-nosed, almost combative questioning of witnesses during the televised hearings has drawn wide attention, expressed disenchantment with the way President Nixon has handled Watergate.

The President's performance, he said, "has been ghastly."

But he quickly added that he was not a "President-getter" and that the central question before the Watergate committee was not so much the matter of presidential culpability as it was "what happened to the Constitution of the United States and what happened to our political system."

New York Times