

Nixon to Talk This Week

Washington

President Nixon will break his self-imposed silence on Watergate either tomorrow or Thursday and issue a detailed defense against charges that he was aware of efforts to cover up the scandal, White House sources said yesterday.

Sources said Mr. Nixon will use the statement, coupled with an appearance on national television, to proclaim that he is innocent of any intentional wrongdoing and to pled that the scandal cause no further interruption in the work of his administration.

The detailed "white paper," which White House lawyers headed by Leonard Garment and J. Fred Buzhardt have been preparing for several weeks, will be Mr. Nixon's first public statement on Watergate since May 22.

White House officials said the detailed document that Mr. Nixon intends to release will be similar to a legal brief and will respond specifically to charges by out-

ed White House Counsel John W. Dean III that the President indicated in conversations as early as last September 15 that he was aware of the Watergate coverup.

Sources said Mr. Nixon will devote his television speech to an appeal to the "court of public opinion."

They said he will accept responsibility for not keeping a closer watch on former White House officials who were acting in his name, but will deny that he ever covered up any wrongdoing.

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton predicted yesterday that Mr. Nixon will be "very candid" in his statement, possibly to the point of admitting that he erred in his handling of the situation.

Morton also said former presidential aides John W. Dean III, H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman "misused the power they had by reason of the position they were in," and did Mr. Nixon "a great disservice."

A.P. & U.P.