

Nixon's Big Honesty Campaign

Washington

President Nixon began an all-out campaign yesterday to prove his honesty and bolster his credibility.

The first dividend was a statement from top Republicans welcoming his promise to disclose all the facts about the Watergate scandal.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon intends to answer "fully and publicly" all the charges against him concerning the break-in at Democratic headquarters, the coverup

that followed and all other areas of alleged wrongdoing.

Mr. Nixon's plan to go to the country in public statements, news conferences, speeches and meetings with congressmen was kicked off during the weekend when he called Republican congressional leaders to the White House to outline his plans. Yesterday, he did the same with the new Republican Coordinating Committee, a group of about 20 top GOP elected officials and party

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leaders assembled by National Chairman George Bush.

BRIEF

The committee adopted a brief resolution, which Bush said was approved by all members present. It said, "We favor full disclosure of all facts arising from the so-called Watergate affair. We welcome the statement by the President to us that this will be done . . ."

But the committee resolution fell short of a ringing endorsement of the President, and some members complained about a "monologue" by Mr. Nixon. Bush conceded there was no exchange between committee members and Mr. Nixon during his presentation, but said "people had an opportunity to visit with the President and have exchanges of views beforehand."

Senator John Tower (Rep-Tex.), who attended both the Friday session and the larger meeting yesterday, said the former was "very much a give and take situation," which to him lessened the necessity for questions and answers at the second gathering.

WOODS

Senator William Brock (Rep-Tenn.), was asked by reporters if he felt Mr. Nixon now is "out of the woods."

"By no means," he said. "But he has opened the door to resolution of the problem."

Bush said committee members left the White House "in a very upbeat" mood, and added that the President's standing may be so improved by next fall that "we may see him campaigning" for Republican congressional candidates.

AFFAIR

The President also called in seven Democratic senators yesterday evening for a discussion of the Watergate affair. Invited to the meeting were Senators James Eastland and John Stennis (Miss.), Russell Long (La.), John McClellan (Ark.), John Sparkman and James

Allen (Ala.), and Harry Byrd (Va.).

Ziegler said complete files of all allegations against the President, his aides, and his family and friends — most of which have not become formal charges — are being compiled along with information to refute them.

Included, he said, would be "erroneous charges" that:

- The President had a \$1 million private investment portfolio, managed by his friend C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

- The International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. got a favorable ruling on an antitrust case in return for a large contribution to the Republican party.

- Milk producers made a similarly large campaign contribution in return for a rise in milk prices.

- The President's daughter, Tricia Nixon Cox, took illegal advantages of tax laws in a Florida land deal.

- The financing of the President's homes in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif., was improper.

- The President himself filed improper tax returns by claiming questionable deductions.

JUDGE

"These are the matters we're going to deal with," Ziegler said. He made his remarks shortly after Mr. Nixon issued a lengthy statement offering to provide additional Watergate-related materials to Judge John J. Sirica.

Announcing the broad-scale campaign to establish Mr. Nixon's innocence, Ziegler said the President would hold a series of six meetings with all Republican senators and congressmen and "some Democrats" through the remainder of the week.

"The President knows full well he is not engaging in the types of actions which could result in these charges," Ziegler said. He described Mr. Nixon as being "determined" not to be overwhelmed by the charges and to calmly answer them "case by case" and "head to head."

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