

Moscow's version: typical US politics

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Watergate scandal was described on Soviet television last night as typical of the American political system.

"What is going on in Washington," a senior political commentator declared, "is purely an internal affair of the U.S.A., and is a clear illustration of the morals of American democracy."

Yuri Zhukov, the commentator, explaining Watergate on his widely viewed television program, said the essence of the affair was the break-in at Democratic party headquarters and charges that the White House promised clemency for the men who did it.

The President has "categorically denied" any wrongdoing and has "appealed to Congress to make

a full investigation," Zhukov said. In addition, he added, Nixon has said he would turn over to investigators tape recordings of conversations with his assistants. "It is necessary to say, comrades, that in the working areas of the White House all conversations were recorded on hidden tape recorders," Zhukov added.

What Nixon has called the "mistakes" of Watergate are "typical of American political practice," Khukov said. Both parties do that kind of thing, he added.

Zhukov preceded his Watergate remarks with an on-camera lecture to "eavesdroppers" of the foreign press who watch his program. He told them not to get upset over what he was going to say since "your press grossly interferes in our internal affairs."