

The Weight of Watergate

Washington

The leaders of the nation's two foremost business associations said yesterday the Watergate scandal has damaged both the national economy and the Nixon administration's ability to deal with it.

They called for prompt action to resolve the scandal and restore national confidence in America's leadership by weeding out the guilty from the innocent.

The comments were made on NBC's "Meet The Press" program by E. Douglas Kenna, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, and Arch Booth, chief executive officer of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

Kenna called for a speedy resolution of impeachment questions being studied in the House of Representatives.

"This administration has had some very severe problems handling economic policy, particularly during the past year," said Booth. "They've been troubled by Watergate; they've been preoccupied with that subject and have spent more time trying to handle the technicalities and details of that subject than they have in handling important economic issues in the Congress."

"I think it (Watergate) certainly has hurt the economy to the extent that it has undermined the confidence of the public," said Kenna.

Both said quick action to resolve the crisis by settling questions of guilt is essential.

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