

KERNER SUSPECTS HE'S NIXON VICTIM

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CHICAGO, March 11 (AP) — Federal Judge Otto Kerner, convicted of participation in a bribery scheme while he was Governor of Illinois, says he was the victim of a political prosecution and he suspects President Nixon was behind it.

Mr. Kerner's comments in the Sunday edition of the Chicago Sun-Times were his first on details of the trial and investigation since his 1973 conviction on charges of bribery, conspiracy, mail fraud, perjury, making a false statement to a government agent and income tax evasion.

The convictions involve the Illinois race track stock scandal in which stock allegedly was traded for political favors that raised the value of the stock.

Mr. Kerner, 65 years old, said he had felt "since the inception of the investigation, because of past accusations by Mr. Nixon with no proof, that I am one of his victims."

Mr. Kerner said that he saw the government prosecution as revenge for political beatings Mr. Kerner administered to Republicans in Illinois in 1960 and for the Kerner report, a Presidential commission study that said racial violence in America was caused by "white racism."