

Hush Money Contradiction

Nixon to Explain on TV

Washington

President Nixon will shed more light today on an apparent contradiction in his accounts of a crucial Watergate meeting and on suggestions that he might have obstructed justice in the investigation of the scandal.

He plans to make a new statement of what he knew about hush money for the Watergate burglars when he holds a nationally televised press conference with a group of businessmen and executives in Chicago.

Spokesman Gerald Warren said Mr. Nixon is ready to deal with questions

about a remark he made last week that dismissed White House counsel John Dean told him on March 21, 1972, that money had been paid to buy the silence of the Watergate burglars.

But last August 15, Mr. Nixon issued a statement saying he was told at the meeting that the payments were merely to cover attorney fees for the defendants and help their families.

The White House has described the apparent conflict as "semantic differences" which would be explained "at an appropriate time."

What happened at the March, 1972, meeting is crucial to the Watergate investigation because H.R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, testified before the Senate Watergate committee that the President stated it would be paid.

Haldeman has been indicted on a perjury charge for quoting the President as saying "it would be wrong."

Mr. Nixon's appearance before the Chicago businessmen today will launch a new round of travel and speaking engagements, similar to his activities last November

when he embarked on "Operation Candor" following a long period of isolation in the White House.

He plans to return to

Washington tonight and then to fly to Nashville, Tenn., to dedicate a new auditorium for the Grand Ole Opry, the country's leading country music company.

Mrs. Nixon, who is now in Latin America to attend the inaugurations of the presidents of Venezuela and Brazil, will fly from Brasilia to Nashville and join the President there tomorrow, her birthday.

The President will fly to Houston, Texas, on Tuesday to hold a televised press conference with members of the National Association of Broadcasters, and is expected to continue his fight for political survival at speaking engagements in other parts of the country later in the month.

Reuters