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BUSH DENIES FEUD
BY NIXON ENEMIES

**Finds No Vendetta—Asserts
Fate of the G.O.P. Is Not
Bound to President**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 19 — George Bush, chairman of the Republican National Committee, rejected today the suggestion that President Nixon's present troubles had been caused by a "vendetta" waged by Mr. Nixon's political enemies.

"Absolutely not," he said.

In fact, he went on, "it is the Republicans," rather than their opponents, "that care the most about Watergate."

Mr. Bush made his comments in response to a question during his appearance on the ABC-TV program "Issues and Answers."

Two From Congress

He was one of three high-ranking Republicans to appear on national television today. The other two—Senator William E. Brock Jr. of Tennessee, chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, and Representative Robert H. Michel of Illinois, chairman of the party's Congressional campaign committee—appeared on the NBC-TV program "Meet the Press."

Like his two colleagues, Mr. Bush sought to argue that the Republican party's fate was, in his words, "not inextricably interwoven" with Mr. Nixon's fate.

And, in brushing aside the suggestion of a "vendetta," Mr. Bush was in effect rejecting one of the themes that has emanated from the White House in the months since the

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Bush Denies Foes Wage Vendetta Against Nixon

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Watergate break-in, in June, 1972.

The White House views basically, has been that the press and some of the President's political opponents have blown the Watergate affair out of proportion.

Mr. Nixon's aides have recently complained that there was a campaign to discredit the President. Mr. Nixon has himself made the point that past Democratic campaigns have involved less than honorable practices.

Mr. Bush took note of Democratic campaign practices as well. But he did so to different effect.

He said that there were "enough things" in Watergate "that we all deplore." Then he made his comment about the Republicans caring "more" about Watergate than the Democrats, saying, "We always thought the Democrats did more of that kind of thing."

Mr. Bush also said in the interview that President Nixon's recently released transcripts of White House conversations "didn't play very well around the country." The transcripts "shook people up and they concerned people," he said.

'Better Candidates'

The Republican chairman also repeated his view that the Watergate affair has already "hurt" the Republican party at the polls. But he expressed some hope for future elections, both Congressional and Presidential.

He contended that the Republicans had "better candidates" for the 1976 Presidential race. As for the Congressional elections, he noted that Congress had a low popularity with the public. The Democrats con-

trol Congress, he said, so Congressional failure is "Democratic failure, and the 'people are going to understand that.'"

Senator Brock and Representative Michel seemed at times to be somewhat more pessimistic than Mr. Bush about the impact of Watergate on the party's future. Senator Brock said he was having "a great deal of trouble" in raising funds; Mr. Michel remarked that "it is going to be a rough year."

Mr. Michel was asked at one point whether he would "welcome" Mr. Nixon's presence "if he said, 'I want to come out and campaign for you.'"

"Well, if I asked for him specifically," he replied. He suggested that Mr. Nixon "would be effective in raising money at a big campaign dinner," and that "there would be other places in the country" to which he "might very well" be invited.

2 From Committee

Two members of the House Judiciary committee — Representatives William S. Cohen, Republican of Maine, and Wayne Owens, Democrat of Utah — appeared on another television program today, CBS' "Face the Nation."

Both criticized the White House in varying degrees. Mr. Cohen suggested that there might be some "hypocrisy" involved in the White House request last week that the impeachment hearings be opened to the public; and said that the White House itself had been "selective" in releasing edited transcripts.

President Nixon's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, made the request following two leaks of evidence that had been heard in private committee sessions,

and said that open hearings were necessary to give the public a fair view of the proceedings.

Mr. Owens accused the White House of trying to "degrade" the Judiciary Committee when it complained of the leaks. He agreed that the leaks were deplorable, but said they were the first leaks in months.

In interviews in U. S. News & World Report, Representatives Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Democrat of Massachusetts who is the House majority leader, and John J. Rhodes of Arizona, the minority leader, agreed that the full House would vote by the end of July on the question of impeaching President Nixon.

In an interview, Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, told Newsweek magazine that while as of now Mr. Nixon was not about to resign, "if he begins to see that there is no way out, I think that rather than put the country through two or three months of televised horror, he would seriously consider stepping down."