



Sen. Lowell Weicker

Weicker says Nixon trod on us

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WASHINGTON — President Nixon and his chief aides violated the Constitution at least 170 times, abusing every one of its principal provisions, Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R-Conn., contended yesterday in a final summation of Watergate evidence.

"Evidence presented to this committee can and will demonstrate every major substantive part of the Constitution was violated, abused and undermined during the Watergate period," Weicker said in presenting his own 145-page report on the findings of the Senate Watergate committee.

Weicker, a member of the Senate Watergate Committee which goes out of existence at midnight tonight, said in his report:

"Several years ago many Americans were willing to silently tolerate illegal gov-

ernment activity against militants, terrorists or subversives as expeditious way to circumvent the precise processes of our justice system. Though quick, it also proved to be only a short step to using such illegal tactics against any dissenting Americans.

"The result was we almost lost America. Not to subversives, terrorists or extremists of the streets but to subversives, terrorists and extremists of the White House."

Weicker submitted 17 recommendations to end political abuses.

They include a legal ban on all forms of domestic electronic surveillance including wiretapping.

Weicker also proposed scrapping the traditional method of nominating presidential candidates at party conventions. He would replace it with a direct national primary, and unaffiliated voters would be free to take part in the primary of their choice.

Weicker devoted one section of his report to the so-called politicization of the Department of Justice and recommended that the attorney general be elected, not appointed by the President.

He would also subject senior White House staff members to confirmation by the Senate and grant the Supreme Court original jurisdiction over executive privilege disputes between the President and Congress or law enforcement agencies.

Weicker accused White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler, in effect, of continual lying to the press.

"The official press spokesman of the White House consistently told the press and the American people versions of Watergate that were not true, when he and those who prepared him were in a position to know, or in fact knew, that his statements were untrue," Weicker said.