

Keyhole Glimpse Of Politicians

New York

A group of Washington correspondents says public officials' drinking and sexual hanky-panky rarely have been reported in the news, but in the post-Watergate atmosphere all that may change.

The correspondent, interviewed by Mike Wallace for CBS' "60 Minutes" show to be broadcast tomorrow, did not agree on how far journalists should delve into politicians' private lives.

Said columnist Jack Anderson, "I had positive first-hand evidence, for example, that President Kennedy did a little womanizing on the side. I didn't print it. Because there was nothing in his public conduct that I could find that was in any way affected by this."

Eileen Shanahan of the New York Times said she believes lobbyists are procuring call girls for members of Congress and their staffs.

"I think that ought to have

a higher priority for the assignment of reporters' time than it generally does," she said.

Maxine Cheshire of the Washington Post said she had evidence former President Nixon was drinking heavily at Camp David, but her paper didn't run it because she could not find a second source.

Anderson said he wrote the story because he was satisfied he had the proof.

"... I felt I ought to write the story ... that President Nixon was going away for long weekends up to Camp David with Bebe Rebozo ... that they were sitting there drinking very heavily," he said. "I thought that this point it becomes news."

Miss Shanahan said had given up trying to report Congressmen's public drunkenness because the Times would not print such news.

"I'd had a titanic fight

... over a story where Russell Long was drunk on the Senate floor where it really affected the outcome of a major Johnson administration tax bill, and was unable to get (it) into the paper..."

"When I say Russell Long was visibly drunk on the Senate floor they say to me, 'How do you know he didn't suddenly have a terribly high fever and get sick?'"

Peter Lisagor of the Chicago Daily News said, "Now, we're in a post-Watergate period and we're still underdoing what I think is a kind of Watergate catharsis. I believe that there's an inclination and temptation now on the part of an awful lot of reporters in this town to report the kinds of things that have been going on on The Hill for a long time.

"And I doubt whether now in this environment, that all these so-called drunks and womanizers are going to get away with it for very long."

United Press