

Stevenson Urges Nixon To 'Clear Up' Watergate

By George Murphy

Senator Adlai Stevenson III (Dem-Ill.) yesterday called on the Nixon administration to lead the investigation of the Watergate affair, rather than resist it.

In a speech to the Commonwealth Club here, Stevenson said the Watergate investigation transcends party lines.

"All of us—Republicans and Democrats—have an interest in clearing the record. If the persistent Watergate scandal proves anything, it proves that only truth—not pained denials—can dispel suspicion. Only candor—not bombast and countercharge—can clear away the doubts.

"The reluctance of our highest leaders to clear the air about the Watergate scandal makes no sense—from the standpoint of their partisan self-interest, or from the standpoint of our higher national interest.

"Clearly the only honorable way to lay the matter to rest, and to answer the questions of the people about the integrity of their leaders and



ADLAI STEVENSON III
Commonwealth Club talk

their institutions, is to make full and fair disclosure: to lead the investigation, rather than resist it."

Stevenson said: "What is at stake—more than the survival or prestige of one party or set of politicians—is the confidence of citizens: their faith and trust . . .

"Some have sought to rationalize the Watergate

scandal by claiming that 'everybody does it.'

"But everybody, most emphatically does not do it—let alone every President. . . . And if everybody did, that would be argument for more discussion and disclosure of wrongdoing, not less.

"The faith of the people in their system and their leaders—a faith that has already been shaken enough—is at stake," the Senator said.

"President Nixon once claimed that he would never use the (executive) privilege 'as a shield to prevent embarrassing information from being made available.' He would invoke it, he said 'only in those instances in which disclosure would harm the public interest.'

"What then, is the purpose of evading testimony before Congress about the Watergate affair, except to avoid embarrassment? Where, in these refusals to disclose information, is any overriding concern for the public interest?"