

White House Issues Denial

The White House issued the following statement through Gerald Warren, deputy White House press secretary, in response to the story above:

"This story and a similar story carried in the New York Times appear to be part of a careful, coordinated strategy by an individual or individuals determined to prosecute a case against the President in the press using innuendo, distortion of fact and outright falsehood.

"This manipulation of the press involves an unprecedented assault on judicial and administrative due process. Its objective, stated in the simplest terms, is to destroy the President. We categorically deny the assertions and implications of this story."

On May 22, the President said in a written statement: "I took no part in, nor was I aware of, any subsequent efforts that may have been made to cover up Watergate. At no time did I authorize any offer of executive clemency for the Watergate defendants, nor did I know of any such offer."