

# More GOP Senators, Chairman Join in Deploring Bugging Case

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By Jules Witcover

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More Republican senators joined the chorus of concern over the political impact of the Watergate bugging case yesterday, with two of them calling on President Nixon to appoint a prominent man of integrity to head a special, sweeping White House investigation.

And Republican National Chairman George Bush said the Watergate case is "grubby" and if it is not "promptly

and fully cleared up" it will have adverse effects.

"There appears to be growing concern about it and there is no point hiding it," Bush said. "It is not good for the political party as a whole nor the political party system."

He spoke to the Young Republican Leadership Conference and to newsmen afterward.

Sen. Robert W. Packwood (R-Ore.), labeling the Watergate scandal "the most odious issue since the Teapot Dome," proposed that the President

ask former Sen. John J. Williams (R-Del.) to head the inquiry "and instruct everyone at the White House to cooperate completely."

To each new round of allegations, Packwood said, "all you get is a denial. And the denials aren't washing. I think the President is getting bad advice, that we can ride it out. But it's a persistent effect.

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The thing that irritates me is the evidence they're determined just to hang tight."

Sen. Charles McMathias Jr. (R-Md.), echoing Packwood's recommendation, said Williams was "the kind of man everyone would have confidence in." He also proposed former Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.) as an alternative.

Mathias and still another Republican, Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York, made speeches on the Senate floor expressing their concern about the Watergate's impact, and Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said he was "deeply disturbed at any developments which taint the political process."

Mathias charged that the Watergate case has been marked by "conflicting loyalties" on the part of some government officials. Mentioning not only Watergate but also the Senate investigation into the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.'s role in the Allende election in Chile and the nomination of L. Patrick Gray III to be director of the FBI, Mathias said:

"These breaches of public trust have occurred in large measure because men of great ability and talent have been loyal to their superiors or their department . . . rather than living up to their solemn oath to defend the Constitution and the law . . . If there is a conflict of loyalties which a high official cannot resolve, he should be expected to re-

sign from his office."

"The only way to restore confidence and trust throughout our society," Mathias said, "is for everyone who shares the privilege of leadership to obey the law, and to meet the small questions and the great issues with equal courage." The Maryland Republican said he "would include everyone who holds public office."

Mathias later said there is growing evidence that the Watergate allegations and disclosures are hurting the GOP around the country. He reported that during a visit to Minnesota Tuesday, Republican state chairman David Knopseng told him two members of the state party's finance committee had quit specifically out of distaste for the Watergate revelations.

Mathias' speech was praised by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) as a "declaration of conscience" — the same phrase used to describe the famous speech of the early 1950s by then Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) denouncing the excesses of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.).

Javits told the Senate that "the American crisis is a moral crisis" and "A question of the confidence of Americans in our society and its moral integrity."

Scott said that although "the general public seems to be dismissing the matter as a quarrel between political parties . . . those of us who are concerned about the good reputations of our political parties want to see them cleaned up promptly."

Another Republican, Sen. William V. Roth of Delaware, joined the voices of other party conservatives including

Sens. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.) and John G. Tower (R-Tex.) in calling on Mr. Nixon to let White House counsel John W. Dean III testify before the Senate committee investigating the Watergate. Mr. Nixon has declined on grounds of executive privilege.

"I feel very strongly that the public has a right to know what transpires in the executive branch," Roth said. And Sen. Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.) said more Republican senators "are realizing the significance of this affair. They are realizing that somehow or other we've allowed this thing to drag on and on and on."

Concerning Dean, the Des Moines Register and Tribune in a story yesterday by its Washington bureau chief, Clark Mollenhoff, quoted White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler as saying that the presidential counsel remains in charge of the investigation of White House aides' involvement in the Watergate bugging.

Mollenhoff said Ziegler's report "was in direct contradiction of reports from usually reliable administration sources that President Nixon has temporarily removed Dean from control of Watergate information."

"I don't see as there is any conflict of interest in Dean heading a Watergate probe for the White House," Ziegler was quoted as saying in the story.