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Percy Sees White House Under Cloud

From News Dispatches

GALESBURG, Ill., June 2 —Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) said today that the White House will remain "under a darkening cloud of suspicion" unless President Nixon comes out "with the whole truth" about the Watergate scandal.

In remarks prepared for a commencement address at Knox College here, Percy called the Watergate case "the darkest scandal in American political history" and said that Mr. Nixon owes the public a fuller accounting.

"There are many disturbing questions which only he can answer and which, until they are answered, will leave the White House and his entire administration under a darkening cloud of suspicion," Percy said.

He said the President should take the lead in removing that cloud instead of letting the acts be "dragged out piecemeal by investigatory bodies or the press."

"If each kernel of truth must be torn away from those who are hiding it," Percy warned, "the effort to redeem our national honor could take years."

Percy called the President's May 22 Watergate statement a step in the right direction. But the Illinois senator added:

"It is not enough for the President simply to accept 'responsibility' in the broadest, most imprecise sense of that word. It is not enough to lament the fact that crimes were committed in the name of a noble goal —protecting national security."