

Political Scientist Says Watergate Is 'Inflated'

A political scientist and strategist told the Commonwealth Club yesterday that the mishandling of the Watergate hearings is a bigger scandal than Watergate itself.

The daily and nightly televised dramas of political life at the heart of the Nixon administration "have become the equivalent of the wailing wall," said Stefan T. Possony, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.

"Watergate is more inflated than the dollar is deflated," Possony said, declaring that the U.S. should spend its time "deflating Watergate instead of inflating it."

"I don't believe the American people want the show to go on indefinitely. America can't afford it," he added.

And the Democrats "can't afford Agnew, so they won't impeach Nixon," he said.

"Unbridled moral indignation is a bigger wrecker of governments than subversion from aboard," warned Possony, who in the past has sounded warnings concerning the Communist menace.

And why is it the British seem to specialize in sex scandals, a Commonwealth Club member asked?

"Probably because of British cooking," the strategist fired back.