

RELEASE OF TAPES URGED BY WEICKER

Senator Says Nixon Speech
'Will Not Be Enough'

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. said yesterday that, unless President Nixon released immediately all the tapes and documents relating to the Watergate affair, the confidence of the American people in the Presidency would not be restored.

Appearing on the Columbia Broadcasting System's television program "Face the Nation," the Connecticut Republican, who is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, said that the President's forthcoming statement on the Watergate break-in "will not be enough."

The President will have to release the relevant tapes and documents "on his own initiative and not as a reaction,



Associated Press

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. in TV interview.

either to the court or to the committee," Senator Weicker said. "The American people have the instinct the President held something back."

The Senator expressed disenchantment with the way Mr. Nixon has handled the Watergate affair, calling the President's performance "ghastly" and saying he expected "a lot more out of the Commander in Chief."

But Mr. Weicker added that the central question before the Watergate committee was not so much the matter of Presidential culpability as it was "what happened to the Constitution of the United States and what happened to our political system."

And, alluding to the tales of political espionage that emerged during the hearings, the Senator said, "I think that in that regard, there's very little left to the imagination."

Among the other highlights of the interview, which was conducted by two C.B.S. correspondents, Nelson Benton and Leslie Stahl, and Jack Germond, Washington bureau chief of the Gannett Newspapers, were the following:

¶ Senator Weicker suggested that when the hearing resume next month, he might refrain from interrogating Charles W. Colson, the former White House aide, because of a confrontation between the two men earlier this summer, when the Senator curtly ordered Mr. Colson to get out of his office.

Baker Interview

¶ The Senator said the "biggest change" that had occurred at a result of the Watergate hearing had been a discernible "shift of power" from the executive branch to the legislative branch. Mr. Weiner said this would have "profound effect on the laws that are passed."

¶ Despite repeated questioning about the investigation of Vice President Agnew on possible criminal charges, Mr. Weicker said only that he, "like any other American," presumed the Vice President to be innocent.

¶ The Senator defended L. Patrick Gray 3d, former acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as a "honest and good man" who was victimized by the Administration." Mr. Weicker was one of Mr. Gray's early sponsors for the F.B.I. post.

¶ The Watergate hearings, Senator Weicker said, have exposed "dirty tricks" at the highest levels of Government so clearly that "it's going to be a long time before anybody tries these kinds of stunts again."

That point was reiterated by one of Mr. Weicker's Republican colleagues on the Watergate committee, Senator Howard W. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, in an interview with U.S. News & World Report.

In another development yesterday, George Bush, the Republican national chairman, said in an interview with United Press International that, soon after the 1968 election, the Nixon-Agnew organization sought funds from the Republican National Committee on the plea of poverty, even though, Mr. Bush said, it had almost \$2.5-million in surplus funds. Mr. Bush also said that the committee donated "a large amount of seed money" last year to the Nixon re-election campaign to get it started, only to discover later that the re-election group still had nearly \$1-million in surplus 1968 campaign funds when the 1972 campaign began.