

'Regrets' on Nixon Error On Wiesner

Washington

The White House said yesterday that President Nixon "certainly regrets" having mentioned former presidential science adviser Jerome Wiesner as taking the kind of tax donation he did for donating personal papers to the government.

Wiesner took issue with the President for having included him among public figures who took such tax deductions. Wiesner said he never took any such deductions.

Wiesner, now president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was science adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson from 1961 to 1964. He said in Boston that he contributed his papers from those years to the National Archives but never took any tax deductions for the gift.

"I don't know where the President got his information, but he's wrong," Wiesner said.

The White House was asked what led Mr. Nixon to say Monday night that Wies-

ner, John Kenneth Galbraith, the late President Lyndon B. Johnson and former Vice President Hubert Humphrey were among those "who made their deductions such as I made in this case."

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said the information that Wiesner "had donated certain papers was reported in December by certain wire services and certain others."

But he conceded that the news reports did not say Wiesner had taken a deduction.

"That being the case," a reporter asked, "has the President apologized to Mr. Wiesner?"

"Well," Warren said, "the President certainly regrets the mention of Mr. Wiesner."

Warren added that Mr. Nixon "could very well have referred to Theodore Sorenson," a former Kennedy aide who Warren said was quoted in the Washington Star-News as taking a \$75,000 deduction for his papers.

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