

# Angry Replies By White House

Washington

Facing a new barrage of Watergate-related allegations, White House spokesmen said yesterday that President Nixon's detractors are conducting a calculated public relations campaign against him.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, who on Tuesday accused the House Judiciary Committee of a public relations tactic by releasing its own version of eight presidential tapes, expanded his contention to include the Senate Watergate Committee.

And deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren later accused assistant Watergate special prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste of "playing more to the press galleries" than to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica by claiming in open court that there is a new gap of nearly 19 minutes in one presidential tape.

Ziegler told reporters he believes "it is more than a coincidence" that the Judiciary and Watergate committees were releasing this week a series of reports and transcripts which he said contain "surmise, suggestions and conjecture with little supporting fact."

The chief Nixon spokesman said he saw "a calculated effort at piling on as many charges as possible in an effort to manipulate public opinion."

Neither he nor Warren would deal with the substance of a Watergate committee staff report, made public Wednesday, which said that Nixon's friend C. G. Rebozo apparently spent campaign funds on items for the benefit of the Nixon family, including diamond earrings for Mrs. Nixon and improvements to the Presi-

dent's Florida estate.

Warren told a news briefing, "We don't find any proof or any substantiation of the allegations that have been made," and he said the "burden of proof" rested with those making the report.

Ziegler said Nixon foes in Congress are conducting a public relations campaign "not to educate the public but to condition the public and manipulate it."

He argued that the Judiciary Committee, which yesterday made public seven volumes of evidence gathered in its impeachment inquiry, should not have made any of the material available until witnesses lined up by the White House in support of Mr. Nixon are heard. Without this testimony, he said, the impeachment record "cannot be judged in its entirety."

Ziegler's position apparently marked a shift in the White House position. Presidential lawyer James St. Clair and Nixon spokesmen had been urging for weeks that the committee immediately publicize evidence because of news leaks from the committee.

The press secretary insisted he did not want to discredit the entire Judiciary Committee because, he said, a majority of its members want to be fair.

But he said some Democratic members are participating in an anti-Nixon public relations offensive. In response to a question, Ziegler cited Representatives Jerome Waldie of California, John Conyers of Michigan, Robert Drinan of Massachusetts and Jack Brooks of Texas as members in that category.

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