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**Nixon Assistants Decline
To Deny 2 New Charges**

By JOHN HERBERS

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WASHINGTON, July 11 — White House spokesmen declined today to deny specifically charges that campaign funds had been put to President Nixon's personal use and that another gap had been discovered in the Watergate tapes. Instead, the spokesmen made another attack on the Senate Watergate committee and the House Judiciary Committee, charging a calculated public relations campaign designed to manipulate public opinion against President Nixon.

The White House reaction reflected a new sense of concern by the President's assistants as charges against the Presidency continued to mount.

Yesterday, the staff of the Senate Watergate committee released a report saying that the President's friend, Charles G. Rebozo, apparently spent campaign contributions from Howard R. Hughes, the industrialist, on items that benefited Mr. Nixon personally, including a pair of earrings for Mrs. Nixon and improvements for Mr. Nixon's estate in Key Biscayne, Fla.

This morning, Richard Ben-Veniste, an assistant special Watergate prosecutor told United States District Judge John J. Sirica, in a hearing that the prosecutor's office had learned that one of the tapes contained a gap of almost 19 minutes.

At a news briefing, Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary, was questioned at length about the two charges, but in a long exchange with reporters he would not specifically deny either.

As to the Watergate committee's staff report on campaign funds, Mr. Warren said it con-

tained "no proof, no substantiation," and that for that reason he would not deny the allegation.

"The burden of proof is on them," he said, and the White House would not be drawn into the position of "denying or proving the negative."

On the question of the alleged gap in the tape recording of a March 20, 1973, White House conversation, Mr. Warren said: "I don't know what Mr. Ben-Veniste is talking about. Apparently he is playing more to the press gallery than to the issue before Judge Sirica."

Ziegler Comments

Earlier, before Mr. Ben-Veniste's statement, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, had made an unscheduled appearance before reporters to denounce the Senate Watergate committee and the House Judiciary Committee for releasing a series of reports and transcripts this week against the President.

"It is more than a coincidence," he said. "It is a calculated effort at piling on as many charges as possible in an effort to manipulate public opinion."

Mr. Ziegler, who as assistant to the President spends a great deal of time with Mr. Nixon, frequently expresses the thinking of the President.

Mr. Nixon has been particularly sensitive to the charges against Mr. Rebozo. Mr. Ziegler termed the state committee report about Mr. Rebozo "warmed over baloney."

"It would appear that most of the charges leveled are surmise, suggestion and conjecture with little supporting fact," he said.