

Korff Tells of Nixon Admission

E Washington

Rabbi Baruch Korff, just resigned as head of the fund to pay former President Nixon's legal debts, says Mr. Nixon admitted to him "his complicity in the cover-up" of the Watergate affair.

Even so, Korff said in an interview, he does not believe the former President should have been "brought to justice" for that complicity because in his view presidents are not accountable to the same laws as private citizens.

The retired clergyman made his statement that Mr. Nixon had acknowledged complicity in the Watergate coverup in the course of a long response when asked whether he still believed the formr President to be innocent of wrongdoing. Korff replied:

"I can only say what Richard Nixon has said to me repeatedly, that he genuinely believed at one stage that national security was involved in the coverup, and at another stage he could not throw his subordinates to the wolves, and at another stage he made very clear tome he was fed 'self-serving' versions,' was the way he put it, by one of the others. And to this day, he told me, he does not know the full story of Watergate.

"Now, as to his complicity in the coverup, he made it very clear that it was exactly that, whether it was to shield a subordinate or to protect national security.

"Now, shouldn't a president be brought to justice for complicity in a coverup? And I would say 'No.' And you would ask how one law can apply to him and another law to you. Aren't we all equal under the Constitution? And again I would say 'No,' startling as it would appear. Some are more equal than others."

Korff's report that Mr. Nixon admitted "his complicity in the coverup" appeared to go beyond what the former President has said himself. On last August 5, in releasing the June 23, 1972, White House tape transcript indicating he knew of and discussed the coverup six days after the Watergate break-in, Mr. Nixon had said only he had committed "a serious act of omission" in not reporting what he had learned of the coverup at that time.

Washington Post