

Bugging Inquiry Dries Up

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has finished its investigation of the Watergate "bugging" case without implicating any present officials of either the White House or President Nixon's re-election campaign committee, the Washington Post reported today.

The newspaper also said it is expected that a federal grand jury will hand down indictments within 10 days.

The White House said it has no plans to release a report of its own investigation as to whether White House staff members or other government officials were involved.

Release of the report was called for by Lawrence F. O'Brien, the Democratic Na-

tional Chairman at the time of the incident and now Sen. George McGovern's campaign chairman.

The White House had already said Aug. 29 its investigation indicated that "no one on the White House staff, no one in this administration, presently employed, was involved in this very bizarre incident."

Five Men

Five men — including two with close ties to the Committee for the Re-Election of President Nixon — were arrested June 17 inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Hotel complex in Washington. They had eavesdropping and photo equipment.

The Post reported federal sources said that throughout the inquiry investigators and prosecutors had strict instructions from Justice Department officials and FBI Director L. Patrick Gray not to consider possible violations of campaign fund reporting laws.

Probe

According to persons familiar with the investigation, the White House received regular reports on the progress the paper said, and the White House determined shortly after the Republican National Convention there was no evidence to indict present administration officials or current employees of the re-election committee.

The FBI and the grand jury conducted aggressive inquiries within the narrow framework of the investigation, the Post related various sources said.

However, the newspaper quoted persons close to the case as saying that agents and their supervisors were frustrated by a central problem from the beginning of the investigation to the end. They said none of the persons directly implicated in the case would talk about the break-in or in any way implicate anyone else.

Because FBI agents had no insider's account of the case, they were not able to learn positively the exact objective of the break-in, the Post said.