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INDICTMENTS NEAR
White House 'Clean'
in Break-in

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has finished its investigation of the Watergate 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 said sources close to the investigation also said that a federal grand jury is expected within 10 days to hand down indictments that will be confined to suspects actively involved in the break-in.

The Miami Herald said today it has learned that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., is prepared to hold open hearings of his Senate Judiciary subcommittee on the break-in if he believes the Nixon administration is stalling civil court action on the Watergate case.

The Herald's Washington bureau reported that Kennedy was keeping in close touch with the progress of the investigations and with former Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien, who is directing Sen. George McGovern's presidential campaign.

Kennedy is said to feel that his entry into the case while court cases are pending would be improper and viewed as "a purely political event" by the public, the Herald said.

But if the court cases are temporarily submerged, the Herald said, Kennedy is inclined to call his Judiciary subcommittee into session to investigate the Watergate affair, including taking testimony from former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell and former secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans.

The case goes back to June 17, when five men—including two with close ties to the Committee for the Re-Election of President Nixon—were arrested inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Hotel complex in Washington. Eavesdropping and photographic equipment was seized by police.

Democrats, including presidential candidate George McGovern, have brought up

the case in their campaign to put Nixon out of the White House, but Republicans have denied any responsibility for the break-in and apparent bugging attempt.

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.

An FBI spokesman declined Friday to comment on any aspect of the Watergate investigation.