

Weicker: People Losing Trust in Politicians**LOWELL WEICKER**

Still growing

about him.

A columnist observed this week, "To the chagrin, annoyance, and great indignation of the senior people around the White House, it is a Republican playing Sir Galahad with a red hot poker instead of a lance who is thus far doing the most painful prodding in the Watergate case."

Weicker, while vowing his continued respect for President Nixon, makes little effort to conceal his lack of regard for some of those around the President — "a particular element within the White House who I don't consider to be, quite frankly, in philosophy, idealism or in character, Republicans."

The lawyer from Green-

By Harry Kelly

Examiner Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — When he was five years old he stood on a street corner and handed out Alf Landon for President buttons.

"He thought that to be a politician was the greatest thing in the world . . . and the foremost thing that was in his mind was to some day succeed and be a hero like the men he admired — Franklin Roosevelt or Harry Truman or Dwight Eisenhower or Tom Dewey . . ."

That was Lowell P. Weicker, now 41 and a Republican senator from Connecticut, talking about himself when he was a youngster full of political idealism.

Today Weicker is his par-

ticular, Conn., has turned most of his criticism on chief presidential assistant H. R. Haldeman.

As White House chief of staff, Weicker said, Haldeman "probably" knew the existence of the political espionage team that broke into Democratic headquarters. He said it is "absolutely necessary" for Haldeman to testify before the Senate panel.

At a meeting with newsmen he denied he was guilty of McCarthyism and of trying the Watergate case in the newspapers. He said, as White House chief of staff, Haldeman had to take responsibility for the "disruption crew" at the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Exclusive Report

ty's foremost critic of the Watergate affair, an overnight hero to some, a headline-hunter to others, exploiting the Watergate for his own political gain.

"I'm a professional politician. Because of things like the Watergate, people have lost faith in politicians and I want to see that changed. The only thing that will convince them to respect politicians is to bring a dirty business like the Watergate out in the open."

It is for that, Weicker said, that he volunteered to

serve on the select Senate committee investigating the Watergate scandal, while at the same time conducting his own inquiry based on evidence from unhappy Republicans.

"The Republicans are upset," he said in a recent TV interview. "There is not one Republican senator on the floor who does not feel as strongly as I do . . . the Republicans are absolutely as one on this issue."

Few Republicans in the White House would agree. They are said to be furious

But his statement — and a series of stories based on leaks from the Watergate committee's investigations — brought an official denial from the Senate committee that it had any evidence linking Haldeman to the bugging of the Democratic headquarters.

The little boy who distributed Alf Landon buttons grew up to be 6-foot-6 — "and is still growing," chides a critic. He is as independent financially as he is politically as an heir to the Squibb drug fortune. He keeps trim by playing tennis daily and sailing when time permits.

He attended Lawrenceville School, Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School. He served one

term in the House before being elected to the Senate in 1970.

Those who contend that Weicker's Watergate quest is not so much in pursuit of the Holy Grail as a chase for a political trophy point out that he won his Senate seat in 1970 with only 41 percent of the vote in a three-way race in which the two Democratic opponents split the majority vote.

Weicker himself acknowledges that he hopes to do better when he faces reelection in the normally Democratic state in 1976.

But he denies that he has any presidential ambitions, arguing that he would have to overcome the problem of having been born abroad, in Paris.