

White House Promises Watergate Disclosure

Washington

The White House will make a dramatic admission within several days that one or more high-level officials bear some responsibility for Watergate-type political espionage, administration sources said last night.

The move representing the personal decision of President Nixon, will be made in response to mounting demands from Republican office holders that the White House fully explain the Watergate affair.

Another factor prompting the move, one official said,

is "newly discovered evidence or evidence that won't go away."

MOVE

This source said the move is not entirely voluntary on the part of the White House. He said the action was designed partly to head off disclosures being made by a federal grand jury and a Senate committee probing the Watergate case.

The White House admission, another source said, might involve "sacrificial lambs" — present or recently departed administration figures.

According to this source,

these persons would be designated by Mr. Nixon as having directed or condoned, without official approval, espionage and sabotage efforts against Democratic candidates in the 1972 election.

TIMED

Officials said the White House action will be timed so that members of Congress "Will have something to take back home with them during the Easter recess," which begins tomorrow.

Sources familiar with the impending action would not identify persons to be affected by it. However, they said at least one official may be forced to resign.

Although specific names were lacking, among administration officials who have been linked in one way or another with the Watergate affair or other political espionage activities have been:

Former attorney General John N. Mitchell; Presidential counsel John W. Dean III; Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign and now a Commerce Department official; and former presidential appointments secretary Dwight L. Chapin, now a United Airlines marketing executive.

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