

# Nixon Statement Pleases the GOP

Washington

Republican politicians reacted with a near-unanimous sigh of relief last night to President Nixon's intervention in the Watergate case.

Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.), one of the many Nixon stalwarts who had expressed public dismay at the White House silence on the growing scandal charges, seemed to speak for many in his party when he said, "I am very pleased that President Nixon has made it possible for us to get to the bottom of the Watergate situation."

Mr. Nixon's statement, revealing a new investigation of the case and promising that his aides would testify to the Senate investigating committee, fell short of the "major revelations" some lawmakers had expected. But no prominent Democrats criticized the President's statement as inadequate and Republicans seemed to feel it was at

least a long step toward safer political ground.

## TRUTH

Senator Lowell Weicker (Rep-Conn.) a member of the special Senate panel probing the break-in at Democratic headquarters said he was "delighted" by Mr. Nixon's statements.

Weicker had denounced the President's previous statement invoking executive privilege for his aides, but last night he said that "with both the executive branch and the legislative branch charging after the truth, we stand a much better chance of getting at the truth."

Somewhat more qualified praise for the President's decision came from the other end of the party's ideological spectrum, with Representative Paul McCloskey of California commenting: "I would have preferred that he (Mr. Nixon) order them to testify . . . I think every Republican on The Hill feels that this should have happened a long time ago."

McClosky, who said recently that he might well change his party registration if the Watergate affair was not cleared up, said yesterday that the latest development "could very much affect my position," adding, "I'm really pleased with what's happened."

Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee and of the 1972 platform committee typified the turnabout in attitudes among GOP "regulars."

Last Friday Rhodes had said "the continual mystery" surrounding Watergate "is hurting the image of President Nixon and the Republican party in the eyes of people everywhere."

Last night the Congressman said, "The President has taken a giant step toward assuring that all relevant facts . . . are brought

before the American people. I applaud him for doing so."

Some Republicans including Senator Robert Packwood (Rep-Ore.), suggested that it was significant that Mr. Nixon had not reiterated his past statements of confidence that no one on his staff had any knowledge of or involvement in the political espionage case.

But the general GOP sentiment seemed to be that if some presidential associates were going to be implicated, the political cost would be reduced if it happened soon — and with official White House cooperation.

Party chairman George Bush who disclosed that he had discussed Republican apprehensions about the case "directly with the President" said he was "very pleased" with Mr. Nixon's actions.

"He fully understands the problem" Bush said. "This will do wonders toward clearing the air . . . though some may be fingered as guilty this course of action will clear the names of the innocent who in my opinion have been injured by leaks, hearsay and innuendo."

## SUPPORT

Full support was also expressed by Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said he had "anticipated" the decision on the basis of his own meetings with the President during the past week adding that he was "pleased" with the action.

*Washington Post Service*