



Cranston Attack on Nixon

Senator Alan Cranston charged last night that the Nixon administration "is engaged in a broad-based assault on . . . the right of Americans to know what their government is doing."

Citing the Watergate affair, the California Democrat suggested that even worse may come.

"We can only speculate," Cranston said, "that the administration may want to hide something even sleazier than Watergate or even more serious than smuggling money out of Mexican bank accounts for use in political campaigns."

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Cranston, a former newsman, has introduced legislation to curtail the executive privilege and protect news-

men's sources.

His talk last night was to the Association of Catholic Newmen at their McQuade Awards dinner at the Press Club.

"Never before has an administration made so many broad moves to stifle information about important domestic actions and policies," Cranston said.

"If these actions do not spring from paranoia, then the administration appears to be scratching and clawing to cover up something else it has done, or something else it would like to do — but doesn't care to 'till the press is muzzled and the public is anaesthetized."

SOURCES

Efforts to "stifle information," he said, include prosecution of newsmen who re-

fuse to reveal sources of news and the broadening of executive privilege to give "the President . . . the right to keep any of 2½ million government employees from testifying before Congress."

The latter, Cranston, said, "would shelter those who hide incompetence, cover up waste, bury corruption and peddle improper influence.

"And anyone inside the government who blew the whistle on them would become a criminal."