



Disgruntled Senators

No Friends for Nixon's Aides

By Patrick J. Sloyan

Examiner Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Just before they left for the Easter recess, a handful of senators in the Republican cloakroom were discussing the deepening scandal.

"It couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of guys," said one. The crack was followed by general chortling.

The incident underlines the fact that the men around the President will have few friends to come to their de-

fense in the coming weeks of Watergate developments.

"Our guys seem to be relishing this more than the Democrats," said one Nixon aide charged with rounding up Capitol Republicans.

There is the obvious problem facing GOP congressmen: there is an election coming up next year. Creating an insulating wall between Senate and House candidates and the Watergate may become a GOP preoccupation in the coming months.

But beyond these political practicalities is the simmering dislike in GOP congressional ranks for H. R. Haldeman, Nixon's chief of staff; John Mitchell, his former Attorney - General and chief adviser, and other aides.

This dislike is not limited to such relatively junior senators as Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.), Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), or liberals such as Edward Brooke (R-Mass.), all of whom have urged a White House cleaning out.

Both senior GOP senators and conservatives blame a variety of trouble on these Nixon aides.

Grumbling

For example, Sen. Hugh Scott, the GOP leader, has been grumbling about mistreatment at the hands of the White House. He still blames Mitchell for the GOP

tribulation over two of Nixon's Supreme Court nominees who were finally rejected by the Senate.

"They got what they deserved," said Scott later, referring to not only the high court nominees but to Mitchell and other Nixon aides.

Resentment reached a new level in the Republican cloakroom last fall. It involved the cardinal rule of senators — political survival.

Involved was J. Caleb Boggs, who wanted to retire as the senior Republican senator from Delaware.

"But Nixon called him down to the White House and personally asked him to run for re-election because he needed every vote he could get in the senate," said a member of the Senate Republican campaign committee.

No Help

Boggs did Nixon's bidding, only to find himself in an unexpectedly tough race with Democrat Joseph Biden.

Sen. Peter Dominick (Colo.), pleaded for a quick Nixon trip to Delaware to help Boggs. Dominick, a veteran conservative and strong supporter of Nixon programs, was the chairman of the senate campaign group.

"Hell, the president could have done it by helicopter in a couple of hours from Washington," said one senator. "But Haldeman said no and Nixon didn't go."

Boggs lost to Biden, and White House insensitivity to congressional needs became the chief topic among GOP senators.

Republican support in congress in the coming days will be crucial to Nixon.

Impeachment

Already, both Democrats and Republicans seem to be dividing into two schools of thought:

One assumes Nixon did not know about Watergate and later sought to cover it up.

The other insists it was

impossible for Nixon not to have known about activities lasting at least a year.

Weicker holds with the first theory, while Brooke

advocates the latter.

There has been a flurry of rumors about possible impeachment proceedings if Nixon is directly linked with the scandal.