

Congress Still Grim
After Housecleaning

Wait, See

Attitude

At Capitol

By Mike Feinsilber

WASHINGTON — (UPI)—Members of Congress—even Republicans—showed no disposition today to forgive and forget Watergate. Some—even Republicans—said President Nixon still has more to explain before he can put it all behind him.

Demands continued from the Capitol that Nixon appoint a special prosecutor who has never served under him. Many said that was too crucial a function to leave to the discretion of Elliot L. Richardson, the Attorney General-designate, although the Richardson appointment was widely welcomed.

'Avoid Suspicion'

Senate Democratic whip Robert C. Byrd (W. Va.) said the special prosecutor must be appointed at once "to avoid any suspicion of a whitewash."

"The Administration must not investigate itself," Byrd said.

Republican Sen. William Saxbe of Ohio, critical for months of Nixon's handling of Watergate, was not satisfied by last night's TV address.

"I am very sympathetic with his position of trying to get things done with the difficulties he has," Saxbe said. "But I don't know any more about the Watergate than I did before."

Before Nixon spoke, Sen. Charles H. Percy of Illinois, who is believed likely to seek the GOP presidential nomination in 1976 as a liberal Republican, said Nixon could restore his "credibility" but "it depends on everything he says and does, particularly in the next few days."

Sen. Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.) said the next few months "will make it clear whether or not there was prior knowledge" by Nixon of the illegal plans to disrupt the Democrats.

Praise

Following the speech, some Republicans applauded.

"Most statesmanlike,"

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said George Bush, GOP national chairman.

"A most courageous act," said House GOP leader Gerald R. Ford, Mich.

Democrats were less charitable.

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Mass., the House Democerted effort now to portray his speech admitted "that there have occurred payoffs, bugging, coverups, denials, fraud, lying, bribes and break-ins."

Said Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.): "There is a concerted effort now to portray Mr. Nixon as above this whole mess. It won't wash. His closest advisers, his cabinet appointees, his personal attorney, even his own brother have been involved in one scandal after another."

The manner in which White House aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman had treated Congress antagonized members for years and their resignations drew no congressional regrets.