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Republican Governors Assured Of 'More Open' Administration

By EDWARD C. BURKE

Two special envoys from President Nixon told the nation's Republican Governors here yesterday that the President would make his Administration "more open, accessible and communicative" to them and to the press.

Speaking of the "agonies of the moment" on a day when Mr. Nixon's former Attorney General, John N. Mitchell, was being indicted, Republican National Chairman George Bush declared:

"The party is not involved in the alleged infidelity of the few . . . The party has been untainted by anything to do with Watergate. I'll be darned if we are going to let the ugliness of Watergate obscure the positive record of the President."

Mrs. Anne Armstrong, counselor to the President, told of Mr. Nixon's plans "to open up lines of communication." She and Mr. Bush attended the President's Cabinet meeting yesterday morning before flying here. According to Mrs. Armstrong, the President made it clear that he would "rely more heavily on the Cabinet for advice," would consult with the Governors and seek better understanding with the press.

Seventeen state Governors and two from the territories are conducting their semiannual conference. On the agenda was a discussion of the nation's energy crisis, but the Governors had to expend great amounts of energy themselves fending off questions from newsmen on the Watergate scandal.

Governor Rockefeller, Gov. Ronald Reagan of California and others sought to minimize the impact of Watergate on the party. However, Gov. Francis W. Sargent of Massachusetts, asked to comment on polls showing that half of the respondents felt that the President might have been involved said of his own state: "I think they're wondering."

Governor Reagan was one of the few to comment on the indictment of Mr. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans by a Federal grand jury. "I've always known them to be honorable men," he said. The Governor expressed the hope that the two would be found not guilty of the charges of corruption.

Gov. Linwood Holton of Virginia, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, said that "if out of this sordid mess" a new awareness of the need for high ethical standards emerged, then Watergate "will have served the Republic very well."

Although there was no unusual applause when Mr. Bush heatedly expressed his "absolute confidence" in the Presi-



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George Bush, G.O.P. national chairman, speaking to Governors' group here.

dent's integrity, the Governors were unanimous in their soft-pedal harmony on the Watergate theme that only a few individuals and not the party itself had been involved. Governor Reagan recalled that when he was a Democrat, there had been Tammany Hall and Jersey City Hauge machine scan-

Mr. Bush said that if he found anyone on the Republican National Committee staff even peripherally involved with the Watergate affair, "He's not going to be there the next day."

Today the Governors, who include Guam's Carlos G. Camacho, will hold an all-day secret meeting on politics at Governor Rockefeller's estate at Pocantico Hills. Mr. Rockefeller is scheduled to hold a news conference afterwards.

During the panel discussions on the energy crisis, Dr. Edward Teller, the nuclear physicist who played a leading role in developing the hydrogen bomb, spoke of a "jackpot" of immense riches in oil shale deep underground in such Western states as Colorado and Wyoming that could be converted into economical fuel through nuclear and conventional blasting. Dr. Teller, who is now a professor at the University of California, said that the United States had the potential through conventional and nuclear means to tap enough underground fuel deposits to overcome its fuel and energy crisis in 15 years.