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LINWOOD HOLTON OF VIRGINIA
Nelson Rockefeller listened to Watergate statement

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GOP Governors Supporting Nixon

New York

Two Republican Governors issued a six-sentence statement yesterday deploring the Watergate scandal and declaring "We believe the President."

Less than 48 hours after they had decided to say nothing collectively about Watergate, the GOP governor apparently decided they had to say something about the scandal shaking President Nixon's administration before ending their semi-annual meeting here.

"We deplore Watergate," the unanimously adopted statement declared. "We support the President. We believe the President."

It also expressed "confidence in the future of our country," said President Nixon "has achieved major

accomplishments for our country," sand added, "we will do whatever we can to help meet the vital needs of our country."

Governor Linwood Holton of Virginia, the chairman of the Republican Governors Association, told reporters that the statement emerged as the governors sat around a dining room table at Governor Nelson Rockefeller's Pocantico Hills estate in Westchester County north of the city.

At the closed session, Rockefeller reportedly told his fellow governors he thinks that the severity of the criticism directed at Nixon for his handling of the Watergate case might produce a backlash of sympathy for the President.

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