

# Alioto Returns to City With an Idea for Nixon

By Jerry Burns

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto returned from abroad yesterday with the suggestion that nationally known Democrats be appointed to President Nixon's Cabinet in order to demonstrate the solidarity of the American political system.

The mayor also called former Attorney General John Mitchell "an evil man" and said the Watergate affair proved his oft-made charge that the Department of Justice was being used for political purposes.

Alioto, accompanied by his wife, Angelina, returned at mid-day from a five-week trip through Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

## QUESTIONS

They were immediately surrounded by reporters with questions about Watergate.

"It's discouraging and disheartening when you have Communist Mayors and presidents who are too polite to even ask about Watergate because it's too embarrassing," said Alioto. "Obviously, the United States' prestige has suffered."

The important things to do now, the mayor added, are to point out to the rest of the world that "in an open society such as this one, we're able to get to the truth" and to demonstrate that "there is a solidarity in this nation that is not going to be destroyed by Watergate."

As a dramatic step to show solidarity, Alioto proposed that President Nixon appoint several nationally-known Democrats to his cabinet.

## GROUP

"President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed two Republicans to his Cabinet when he wanted solidarity," the mayor noted.

Alioto also reminded those

present that he appeared before Senator Samuel Erwin's committee, which is now investigating the Watergate affair, some months ago to show "the collaboration of John Mitchell's group" with the Look Magazine article critical of the mayor and the unsuccessful Washington state law suit against him.

"I argued then that the Department of Justice was being used as a political arm and the prosecutions were really political and not based on the merits," said the mayor.

"Not too many people believed it at that time. Of course, they all believe it now," he added.

## MESS

Alioto said he is not exulting over Mitchell's present position in the middle of the Watergate mess.

"I feel sorry for him," said the mayor. "I thought he was an evil man and I still think he's an evil man."

Alioto also said the Watergate affair is proof that the American judicial system works.

"I have great faith in it and I'm convinced justice will be done," he said. "Those who perpetrated these crimes — particularly bribery, obstruction of justice and burglary — will be brought to justice."

## WIN

As a result of Watergate, he added, "I haven't any doubt that Democrats ought to win in 1974 and 1976 — the only question is whether Democrats will beat Democrats in those two years."

Alioto also said the evidence so far does not justify impeachment of the President and expressed the hope that future evidence will not lead in that direction.

The Aliotos were met at

the airport by their daughter, Angela Mia Veronese, and two of their ten grandchildren, three-year-old Angela Mia Veronese and two-year-old Adolfo Veronese.

The mayor, who visited in Israel, Russia, Romania, Italy, Sweden and France, reported that the opening of the San Francisco Symphony in Paris was "fantastic — they took the place by storm."