

*'U.S. Will Stand'*

# Brown Elated At Watergate

The chairman of the key Assembly Ways and Means Committee thinks America will stand despite Watergate.

In fact, Willie Brown is elated that the Congress and the judiciary have pursued and exposed "this national scandal."

The San Francisco Democrat spent yesterday morning talking with some 150 of his 18th Assembly District constituents at McKinley School, 14th and Castro streets.

It was an open community meeting (he holds two a year) where his electorate get to question Brown, learn where he's at and what his plans are.

Watergate was the first order of business and Brown was pleased that (for one thing) the incident and uproar surrounding it have not brought on military takeover.

"That's what could have happened if everybody hadn't played by the rules. It's happened in other countries where they were willing to go that far to keep a leader in power."

### Public Financing

The "pressures and temptations" placed upon the judge of the Pentagon Papers trial might have proved "very difficult to turn down" under other political systems, Brown said.

"The fact that Judge Matt Byrne did turn them down because he believes in our system shows the real strength of this system."

One voter wanted to know what can be done to stop fu-

ture Watergates before they happen.

"We're going to have to go to public financing of all political campaigns," said Brown, who will soon begin amalgamating three Assembly bills dealing with elections and public financing.

"It's the only way poor people are going to be able to get elected to representative office. It's the only way to assure honesty in the election process. It will eliminate the disproportionate influence of big money interests."

Because he expects opposition from special interests, Brown doesn't think he can get such a bill through the legislature this year.

Brown later told The Examiner he thinks publicly financed elections should be restricted to one dollar per voter per candidate.

### Fashion Plate

Ever the fashion plate, the 38 year old assemblyman rates as a top candidate for the title Mr. Hippest Dressed Elected Representative, USA.

For this community meeting he assumed a chic but businesslike aspect: wine color turtleneck, bold plaid "baggies" cuffed slacks, deep brown leather sport jacket.

Brown's name jumps up almost every time the 1974 mayor's race is mentioned, and one constituent, noting Mr. Brown's "recent interest in what's happening in The City," supposed him to be an active candidate.

"I'm not sure the job can

be done, the way the City Charter establishes it," said Brown, noting there's so much red tape a mayor can't even get a stopsign put in at a busy corner without five years' rigamarole.

Of Gov. Reagan's current tax proposal, Brown said "nobody understands it—nobody, including the governor." And he can't get behind the idea of one-cent sales tax increase.