

# Staff Worried By Nixon Speech

Washington

High-level members of the President's staff are now concerned that Mr. Nixon's most recent statement on the Watergate affair may have raised more questions than it answered, according to four White House sources.

These sources reported that the President's most senior aides are particularly concerned that former presidential counsel John W. Dean III will allege that President Nixon had knowledge of the Watergate cover-up while it was occurring.

The sources reported that high-level presidential advisers do not know exactly how Dean might support such a charge, but are deeply worried that his account may appear credible to investigators and the public.

The sources said the President decided last weekend to issue some statement less as a counterattack than as a cushion to deaden the im-

pact of the continual Watergate disclosures.

"It's an interim statement. We just couldn't sit back," one White House source said.

Another White House official said the statement came as close as the President has been to accusing his two former top aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, of letting him down and perhaps participating in the Watergate coverup.

One source said: "There was some opinion here to throw Haldeman and Ehrlichman over the side completely, but the President couldn't bring himself to do that because of that old, very close relationship."

The sources said the President is unlikely to hold a press conference until reporters who cover the White House stop shouting at press secretary Ronald Ziegler. White House officials say they are afraid that the President, who has always been treated respectfully at

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## A Recess After Today

Washington

The Senate Watergate hearings will recess after today's session and resume June 12.

The CBS, NBC and ABC television networks said yesterday they will decide on a day-to-day basis whether they will continue their start-to-finish coverage when the hearings resume.

*Associated Press*

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press conferences, might be subject to the same treatment against the background of Watergate.

*Washington Post Service*