

# White House Response

## Washington

In response to today's Washington Post story on President Nixon and Watergate, White House press secretary issued the following statement:

"The story reflects a shocking and irresponsible abuse of authority on the part of the federal prosecutors, if in fact they made the statements attributed to them. Grand jury proceedings are by law secret. It is a violation of law to communicate information and allegations relating to the grand jury proceedings in this fashion.

"The White House has asked Attorney General (Elliott P.) Richardson, and will be asking special prosecutor (Archibald) Cox, to investigate the circumstances of these anonymous charges against the President of the United States — and to do so immediately."

Ziegler declined to say whether the "abuse of authority" was the transfer of

information by the prosecutors to the Justice Department — which is presumably a routine procedure — or the obtaining of such information by the Washington Post.

Informed of the contents of the story, assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert, who has headed the Watergate grand jury investigation, said he would have no

comment. Jack Hushen, a spokesman for the Justice Department, also declined to comment on the story.

*Washington Post Service*