

Ziegler Terms Story Shocking

In response to the above story, White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler issued the following statement last night:

"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 (Elliot L.) 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 if 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.
