

Nixon and His Press Problem

Washington

President Nixon, hoping to avoid the courtroom-like cross examination of a full-scale news conference, is searching for another way to meet with reporters to discuss the Watergate scandal, White House sources said yesterday.

They said the President, under pressure from both Republicans and Democrats to submit to questioning on the subject of Watergate, is weighing several different proposals.

Senate minority leader Hugh Scott, who met with the President yesterday, predicted "there will in due time be a press conference when I assume every question thought of will be asked."

But he added: "I don't think he has a reply to every innuendo or every threat of frightened people in the pursuit of the avoidance of jail."

One of the proposals that has been put to Mr. Nixon by his staff, sources said, is to submit to an interview by one television commentator, or by the anchorman of the three main networks.

Still another suggestion is that Mr. Nixon allow five selected White House reporters to question him.

Sources said White House aides would like to avoid a full-scale press conference on the Watergate, fearing that the intense questioning would give the impression that the President is on trial.

Mr. Nixon has not held a full scale news conference since March 15, about a week before the Watergate case began to mushroom.

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