

Cranston Talks About Watergate

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston, addressing the Commonwealth Club here yesterday, was asked whether he thought President Nixon would resign or be impeached because of the Watergate scandal.

"I doubt that he will resign," said Cranston. "I don't think it's within his character."

And as for impeachment, said the California Democrat, "no facts or testimony" have been produced which indicate that the President was "directly involved in violations of the law — which would be the grounds of impeachment."

Cranston, speaking before about 400 Commonwealth Club members and guests at a luncheon meeting at the Sheraton-Palace hotel, said he felt Mr. Nixon "has to accept responsibility for Watergate—and he has in part."

He said he liked the letter—written to a newspaper — that said the president, in regard to the Watergate case, was "either responsible—or irresponsible."

During the main body of his speech, the senator declared that "through subpoenas, court action, surveillance, wiretapping, veiled threats and naked denunciations, the Nixon administration has sought to intimidate the press and to suppress dissenters."

And he said that as the Senate Watergate investigation has "already revealed, some men close to the President have consistently practiced deceit, duplicity, lawlessness and the dirty tricks of the totalitarian state in a mindless lust for power for its own sake and in utter contempt for and degradation of the American political process."

Cranston said some people dismiss Watergate as "typical politics."

But that's not so, he said, because previous corruption was rooted in "greed and for the sake of getting money . . . not for the sake of getting and keeping power