

A Republican Looks at Watergate

By George Murphy

Outside of slowing down contributions temporarily, Watergate has had little effect on Republican activities in California, the president of the California Republican Assembly said yesterday.

Richard Krugh, of Morgan Hill, told a press conference in the Airport Marina Hotel, Burlingame, at the opening of the organization's quarterly board of directors meeting:

"Most people see Watergate as an aberration — it is not what would be expected of a Republican's campaign staff.

"If the same thing occurred in Chicago or any of the other machine-run cities that are legacies to the Democrats, people wouldn't have thought much about it. Because it happened to a Republican campaign group, it became news.

"It's like the 'man bites dog' story—it's only news because it's so unusual."

Krugh said he believes the tapering off of donations to the GOP is only temporary, adding: "After the noise dies down, we won't be hurting."

"I think the people of California, as they always have, will look at the persons—the candidates. They're not going to hold the party responsible for the acts of a small group of seven or eight persons.

"In spite of the attempts of some to use this issue to smear all Republicans, the public is too wise to go along, and they will continue to vote for the best man."

Krugh did see good coming out of the Watergate investigation.

"When leading candidates of either party are involved in scandal, let's use this incident as a precedent and insist on full disclosure. It should be noted that the special committee that was set up by the Senate was done so to investigate all campaign scandal, not just Watergate."

Krugh said he expects the directors to adopt several resolutions over the week-end meeting.

Among them will probably be one endorsing Governor Ronald Reagan's proposed



RICHARD KRUGH
'An aberration'

tax limitation initiative, another on the energy crisis and a third on reapportionment.

U.S. Senator Carl Curtis of Nebraska will address the meeting at the hotel tonight. Paul Haerle, vice chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, will deliver the keynote address this morning, and the speaker at today's luncheon will be State Senator John Harmer of Glendale.