

3 Senate Probers Urge Volu

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Senators investigating the Watergate scandal are on home leave this week encountering questions and testing public sentiment on whether President Nixon should appear before their committee.

Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.), a member of the Senate Watergate committee, told a news conference yesterday he does not think it would be proper for the committee to call or subpoena Mr. Nixon but said he would welcome a voluntary appearance by the President.

"It's up to the President to decide whether he should appear before the committee," the senator said, adding that Mr. Nixon "should refuse" if any pressure is applied to "drag" him before the panel.

Another Republican senator, Edward Gurney of Florida, who is spending part of the Fourth of July recess with his mother in Waterville, Maine, contended it would be "unthinkable" to ask the President to testify on the basis of charges by John W. Dean III.

Dean, former White House counsel, told the com-

mittee in five days of testimony last week that he believes Mr. Nixon was aware of White House efforts to cover up the scandal as early as last September.

Gurney, in a Maine Sunday Telegram interview, argued that the President should not be called to rebut Dean, whom the senator termed "a man involved in a total conspiracy to obstruct justice and a man who did not inform the President although he was in a position to do so."

In fact, Gurney added, Dean "was probably the kingpin of the conspiracy."

Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.), the committee chairman, reiterated the feeling he and Sens. Weicker and Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.) expressed last week that Mr. Nixon should testify.

At a Democratic fund-raising drive last weekend, Ervin said he would not favor issuing a subpoena. But he added he would prefer that Mr. Nixon, whom he called "the most repressive President in the history of the Republic," appear before the committee voluntarily "and tell us what he knows or doesn't know about this."

"I frankly don't see why anybody would object to tes-

tifying if he thinks he has any truth to tell," Ervin said. "Dean did a remarkable job as a witness, and he kept a low-key attitude."

Other senators on the committee are not planning speeches on the issue during the week, but Baker will be interviewed by CBS Wednesday and by ABC on Friday.

Sens. Gurney and Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.), also a committee member, will appear Sunday on "Issues and Answers" (ABC, WMAL).

Most members who are keeping a mail count say it is heavy and overwhelmingly favorable to the committee's handling of the

probe. Ervin's mail is seven to one favorable, and Baker's is more than two to one, their aides report. Gurney's is "mostly favorable" to his efforts to discredit Dean's testimony, his office says.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), who is not on the committee, said in a "Meet the Press" interview (NBC, WRC) Sunday that he thinks "it will be necessary, for the good of this republic, for the integrity of the presidency and for the good name of the President of the United States, for him to come clean with the American people in the appropriate forum, either before a grand jury or before the Senate committee, testifying as any

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other officer of government or citizen."

Humphrey conceded that such an appearance would "pose a very difficult problem" to the principle of separation of powers. But he added, "What we have here is the whole credibility of government at stake . . . and I do believe that is is entirely possible, under precedent, for the President to make an appropriate appearance."

Asked whether he thinks the disclosures about bugging and burglary and misuse of the CIA, the FBI, and the Internal Revenue Service add up to a case of Presidential malfeasance, Humphrey replied, "They add up

to a case of lack of presidential surveillance and leadership and management and administration of this government."

However, on another TV program, "Face the Nation," (CBS, WTOP), Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to the President, said that on March 21, after a briefing on Watergate by Dean, Mr. Nixon called Colson to complain that he was not getting the truth.

Colson reported that the President "knew at that point that he was not being told the truth, that he was being given confusing information. He didn't know whom to believe or whom to rely upon . . ."

Colson also said Dean's accusations involving Mr. Nixon "are unfounded and untrue."

In another development, the Miami Herald reported yesterday that Sen. Gurney received \$20,800 for his 1974 campaign from contributors who included C.G. (Bebe) Rebozo, a close friend of Mr. Nixon, and former White House adviser Murray Chotiner.

The newspaper said Gurney received the money at a Washington cocktail party May 23, after he was appointed to the Watergate investigating committee. In his testimony Dean called

Gurney the only "friend of the White House" on the committee.

Rebozo, Chotiner, and I. Lee Potter, a Republican National Committee employee, each contributed \$100, and a \$200 contribution was made by Charles H. Morin, a member of Colson's law firm, the Herald said.

Denying any conflict of interest, Gurney issued a statement saying, "The Miami Herald must be hard up for news to have to run a story pointing out that Republicans and conservatives are contributing to my reelection campaign. Who do they think would contribute —McGovern supporters?"