

Ten Senators

Backers Call on Nixon

Washington

Ten conservative Republican senators called on President Nixon at the White House last night to tell him that they are not deserting him because of Watergate.

The group, headed by Senator Carl Curtis of Nebraska, met with the President for cocktails in the White House library shortly after 8 p.m. after a secret list of senators by James Buckley, Central Intelligence Agency director, had been made available to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

Some Republican conservatives, notably Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, have criticized Mr. Nixon for not adequately responding to charges that he was involved in the Watergate cover-up. The Curtis delegation was warmly welcomed by White House officials struggling to regain the political offensive.

Goldwater was not on the list.

They were other well-known conservatives among the Senate Republicans, including James A. Buckley of New York, Roman Hruska

of Nebraska and Edward J. Gurney of Florida, Mr. Nixon's main defender on the Watergate committee.

Mary Cassidy, Curtis' press secretary, said that the list was composed of the senators who had complimented Curtis after his Senate speech of June 14 attacking those who he said were "out to get" the President.

According to White House officials, Curtis called William Timmons, the presidential liaison man with Congress, and asked for an appointment.

In addition to Curtis, those on the guest list were Wallace Bennett of Utah, Dewey Bartlett of Oklahoma, Norris Cotton of New Hampshire, Clifford Hansen of Wyoming, Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Milton R. Young of North Dakota, John Tower of Texas, Paul F. Patton of Arizona and Steve Symington of South Carolina.