

# Court to Rule on Ziegler Deposition

The taking of a deposition from presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler in a civil suit arising from the Watergate bugging has been postponed indefinitely pending a court ruling on how far the questioning may go.

The deposition was to be taken today, but Democratic attorneys agreed to the postponement when advised by the White House that Ziegler would refuse to answer any questions about any actions after the June 17, 1972, burglary and bugging of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate here.

It was in the period after June 17 that Ziegler repeat-

edly denied any White House involvement in the Watergate affair, statements he later declared "inoperative."

Two of President Nixon's aides, Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, similarly refused on the grounds of relevancy to answer the Democrats' questions about any matters that occurred after June 17. The two aides' attorneys claim the suit applies only to the events leading up to the June 17 break-in and not to any actions afterward.

The Democrats asked U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Richey to force

Haldeman and Ehrlichman to answer the questions, and the oral arguments on the issue were made before Richey last Tuesday. Richey gave no indication when he would rule.

Maurice Dunie, of the Democrats' attorneys, said he would await that ruling before taking Ziegler's deposition.

The Democrats' suit, filed within days of the break-in, charges invasion of privacy and seeks \$6.4 million in damages from the Watergate defendants and officials of the Nixon re-election committee.

7-27-73  
W. Post