

'Turned Corner,' Sources Say

Nixon's New Confidence

Washington

President Nixon is telling White House advisers that he has "turned the corner" on the Watergate scandal and the worst is behind him, administration sources say.

According to sources in the White House, Mr. Nixon considers it likely at some point that an attempt will be made to impeach him. But he is confident it will collapse before it gets very far.

Whatever happens, the President is said to be determined never to resign.

White House staffers cite the President's remarks in the White House Rose Gar-

den last Saturday after his confinement in Bethesda Naval Medical Center as the best guide to his thinking.

On that occasion the President branded talk of his resignation as "poppycock." He also declared: "What we were elected to do, we are going to do and let others wallow in Watergate."

When the President makes his next public statement on Watergate, White House sources believe his tone is likely to be firm. Said one: "He feels that people are looking for strength from the President, and he intends to make a show of strength."

This picture of the President's attitude fitted in with the disclosure yesterday by House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford (Rep-Mich.) that the President had overridden the advice of his two chief domestic advisers, Melvin R. Laird and Bryce Harlow, in refusing to give tapes of White House conversations to the Senate Watergate committee and to special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Before he made the decision to withhold the tapes, Ford said Mr. Nixon spent from ten to 12 hours at his Camp David retreat last Sunday, the day after he left

the hospital, listening to the tapes.

White House sources said that the President's view of his Watergate prospects had become more hopeful after John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel, concluded his testimony:

Though the President considered Dean's testimony to be the strongest evidence against him, he believed that it was not convincing, especially when weighed against the testimony of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and other rebuttal witnesses.

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