

White House Word On Political Probes

Washington

The White House indirectly conceded yesterday that some staffers circulated memos in 1972 urging use of government agencies like the Secret Service to gather information on President Nixon's political opponents.

Deputy press secretary Gerald Warren also implicitly admitted that information from a Secret Service agent who was protecting Senator George S. McGovern (Dem-S.D.), the Democratic nominee, was passed to the White House through one of its congressional liaison officials.

But he refused to discuss the memos — 24 of which are said to exist.

MEMOS

Most staff members involved in the memos have left in the wake of the Watergate scandal, and part of

the reason the White House was circumspect in handling the matter is that the Senate

Watergate committee may take it up when it resumes in September.

Mr. Nixon will make his long-awaited speech on Watergate the middle of next week, Warren said. Others said the President is expected to speak to the nation from the White House.

After the speech, the President "will be having a press conference and answer questions there and in other forms," Warren added. He did not identify the other forms.

Warren was bombarded with questions about the 1972 staff memos and the alleged Secret Service agent's activity.

He acknowledged that the White House congressional liaison official, Max L. Friedersdorf, and deputy White House counsel Fred Fielding, both of whom were mentioned in the memos and are still on the staff, did "pass on internally information which they had received" as a result of the memos.

LEVELS

"But as to the bulk of the story," Warren continued, "I don't want to discuss the memos that apparently were being circulated in the White House at various levels prior to the election, or discuss in relation to procedures apparently then in place, procedures which are no longer in place or different in time."

"We're now operating in a different time, with different methods," he added.

Warren declined to say whether Mr. Nixon was aware of the memos at the time, or any information they elicited. He refused to say whether the President condemned the Secret Service agent's action, presumably pending the results of the current agency investigation into the matter.

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