

Weicker Wants Nixon to Tell All

By Donald P. Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Conn.) cautioned yesterday against dragging out the next phase of hearings by the Senate Watergate committee, lest "the American people think this is an exercise in normal politics, or vindictiveness. I don't want anyone to feel sympathetic toward what I've heard in that hearing room."

Weicker, a member of the committee, said his mail is "still running very high in favor of what the committee has done," but said the investigation could lose its edge "if we drop down to a whole group of small matters."

Interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation," Weicker said the committee must "come up with matters of equally important, if not more important, sub-

stance than what's been covered" when it resumes the hearing next month.

President Nixon's upcoming statement on Watergate, his third, must make public "every single piece of knowledge that's within his grasp" if Nixon is to gain the public's confidence, Weicker said. The first two statements "didn't fly, didn't sell" because the public realized that "something was being held back."

Weicker also said it is necessary for the President to release the tape-recorded conversations over which the committee is now suing him. The President should make the tapes available "on his own initiative, and not as a reaction either to the court or to the committee."

Weicker indicated the President cannot govern "until he lets it all hang out on Watergate" and take responsibility "not just in a broad sense, but in a very specific sense on his own shoulders."

The next phase of the committee's probe will be into the so-called "dirty tricks," and Weicker said he may not question the first scheduled witness, former presidential aide Charles Colson "because of my run-in with him." Weicker ordered Colson from his Senate office "with some unceremonial language." (In June, Weicker reportedly told Colson: "You can just get your ass out of my office because you make me sick.")

Weicker said he disagrees with a fellow committee member, Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), who has contended that the central question is what the President did or did not know. "What's important, and what has been fully il-

lustrated," Weicker said, is "what has happened to the Constitution and to our political system . . . There is very little left to the imagination."

"How many more instances of using the government against its citizens do you want before you get the message that this is what was going on back in the White House in 1971 and 1972? How many more dirty tricks do we want thrown out on the table before we realize that the whole concept of politics was based on a level akin to the gutter?"

He said the biggest result of the hearings "has already come about" in that the power of the government is shifting from the executive to the legislative branch.

He said "the American people, not Richard Nixon, for years have looked to the presidency, rather than the democracy, to solve their problems," and "now I think you've seen that trend reversed. It's the best thing that could have ever happened."