

Weicker Sees Congress Unaffected by Inquiry

He Says Watergate Has Not Immobilized Legislators

By LAWRENCE FELLOWS

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HARTFORD, Sept. 4—If the Watergate affair has paralyzed some part of Government, it has immobilized the White House and not Congress, Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. said today.

"Congress is still in the midst of a whirlwind of activity," the Connecticut Republican said at a news conference in the state Capitol, noting that the legislators were still busying themselves with highways, health and a whole range of subjects for legislation.

The huge, sloping figure of the Senator, a member of the select committee investigating the Watergate affair, has become a familiar one to television viewers. So have the Senator's differences with the White House become known.

"I can only guess that paralysis must exist in the White House and the executive branch of government," Senator Weicker said. "I see very little of any other subject being discussed."

The Senator has been vacationing, and will return to Washington to prepare for the next phase of hearings before the Senate Select Committee when they resume, probably next week.

He said he did not know what areas of the case the seven members of the committee would scrutinize in the next phase.

Unanswered Questions

"There are many matters, many questions left uncovered and unanswered," Senator Weicker said.

He said he would like to see President Nixon appear before the committee, even if a special meeting on some neutral ground had to be arranged for the President.

"I think it would be far better than any tapes," Senator Weicker said, referring to the recordings of White House conversations on the Watergate affair, which the committee is seeking to hear.

He regretted that the committee's persistence in the Watergate affair was beginning to cause resentment and weariness, especially among Republicans.

"If we keep saying 'forget about what happened, we really don't want to know, we're tired, etc.' then all of a sudden this



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Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. at news session yesterday in Hartford.

matter is going to come to the Republican bosom when it wasn't there to begin with," Senator Weicker said.

Mansfield Hopes for Accord

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, today urged the Senate Watergate committee and President Nixon to meet in a new attempt to avert a constitutional clash over the Watergate tapes.

In an interview, the Montana Democrat held out hope for a compromise under which Mr.

Senator Hopes Nixon Will Appear Before Committee

Nixon would submit the tape recordings to the seven Senators, who would listen to them but keep their contents confidential.

Presumably, the same arrangement could be worked out with the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, whose suit against Mr. Nixon has led United States District Court Judge John J. Sirica to order the President to make the tapes available for court scrutiny. Mr. Nixon is appealing that decision. The committee's suit against Mr. Nixon has not yet gone to trial.

"I would hope the President will invite the full committee, or at least its chairman and vice chairman, to meet with him," Senator Mansfield said. "If this were done, it would be possible for them, as reasonable men, to work out a reasonable solution."

At the same time, he disputed Mr. Nixon's suggestion that Watergate had become a Congressional "obsession." He said Congress this year had been unusually productive.