

Negotiations Over Nixon Bank Record

Washington

The White House acknowledged yesterday it was negotiating with the Senate Watergate Committee on the panel's effort to gain access to President Nixon's Key Biscayne, Fla., bank account records.

Committee sources confirmed that they were seeking the Nixon bank records, but one source said White House lawyers "had dug in their heels" and indicated they would claim executive privilege to keep the records from the committee.

"We are in contact with the staff" of the committee, White House deputy press

secretary Gerald L. Warren said. He added that the White House is "not certain what is being sought" and that presidential aides were "attempting to work out ways so information can be provided . . . and that confidentiality can be assured."

The bank's president is Mr. Nixon's closest friend, Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

At a news conference Friday night, Mr. Nixon defended Rebozo's handling of a \$100,000 contribution from billionaire Howard Hughes — a contribution Rebozo kept in a safety deposit box for three years before returning earlier this year.

Associated Press