

ABA President Asks Nixon to Disclose All

ATLANTA, Dec. 3 (UPI)—American Bar Association President Chesterfield Smith said today President Nixon's leadership is "so much in jeopardy" that he should release all of his Watergate material "even if it had to damage our national security."

Smith also said the White House lawyers' handling of the Watergate affair has been "inept" and he has heard reports the President is unhappy with his lawyers and is looking for replacements.

"I don't know anything about their abilities from personal knowledge," said Smith, "but as an individual lawyer from Florida, the President's legal position has been advanced in an inept way."

Smith said he was not being critical of any lawyer because the President's stance may have been set by a non-lawyer.

In Atlanta as part of an eight-city tour to discuss organizing and meeting bar association programs, Smith said, "I have now reached the point that the leadership of the President is so much in jeopardy . . . that I would release all material even if it had to damage our national security."

While not advocating impeachment of Mr. Nixon, Smith said it is important that the direction of the pending impeachment process be decided.

"We can't continue in never-never-land in which a majority of the people suspect the President and every action he takes," Smith said. "Presidential credibility is the main issue."

"It's almost as important for justice to appear to be done as for justice to be done," he said.