



IP Wirephotos

WILLIAM E. BROCK
Tennessee senator

GOP Chiefs And Nixon Talk of '74

Washington

President Nixon and Republican political leaders held their first formal 1974 campaign strategy session yesterday. Participants said there was no mention of Watergate's potential impact.

Republican National Chairman George Bush said there was no need to discuss Watergate during the 45-minute meeting because it has been talked about "ad infinitum" in many earlier sessions between Mr. Nixon and Republican leaders.

Senator William E. Brock of Tennessee, chairman of the GOP Senate Campaign Committee, said the party has been "severely wounded" by Watergate but described the purpose of conferring with Mr. Nixon as discussing "things you can do something about."

Bush, Brock and Representative Robert Michel of Illinois, chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, indicated the discussion centered around candidates and the problem of maintaining a healthy economy in an election year.

As Bush asserted that Watergate "isn't going to be the determining factor" in 1974 races, Brock chimed in that, "The thing that could

be devastating for us next year would be an economic downturn."

Brock said he found Mr. Nixon in a very positive mood about economic prospects, the energy crisis notwithstanding, and Bush declared that the whole mood of the meeting "was generally upbeat."

Bush was asked if there was any discussion of Mr.

Nixon stumping personally for GOP candidates next fall.

He reported the question did not come up but quoted Mr. Nixon as having told him recently he will stay away from where he's not wanted and if he could be helpful elsewhere, "I'll sure do it."

Associated Press