

Goldwater Says Doubt Lingers Over 'How Honest' President Is

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BOSTON, Dec. 17 — Senator Barry Goldwater said in a newspaper article published here today that President Nixon had failed to heed his call of eight months ago to clear up the Watergate scandal.

"He chose to dabble and dabble and argue on very nebulous grounds like executive privilege and confidentiality when all the American people wanted to know was the truth," Senator Goldwater said in the interview, published in *The Christian Science Monitor*.

In the interview, the conservative Arizona Republican told Godfrey Sperling of *The Monitor's* Washington bureau that the President faced considerable difficulty in regaining the trust of the citizenry.

"I don't think it's Watergate, frankly, as much as it's just a question in people's mind of just how honest is his man," Senator Goldwater said, adding:

"I hate to think of the old adage 'Would you buy a used car from Dick Nixon' — but that's what people are asking around the country."

Interview Last April

In a *Monitor* interview last April, Mr. Goldwater, the 1964 Republican Presidential nominee, urged Mr. Nixon to "give assurances" to the public about the Watergate affair. He also compared Watergate to the Teapot Dome scandal, saying "I mean there's a smell to it. Let's get rid of that smell."

In the interview published today, Senator Goldwater urged that the House inquiry into the impeachment of the President be speeded up as a means of possibly restoring Mr. Nixon's credibility and portraying him as a political "loner" who shunned the advice of others.

"I think it's incumbent on the Democratic leadership of the House to get off its tail ends and move on this," he said, adding, "We have a nation of 210 million people who need leadership and need it badly."

Of Mr. Nixon's political style, Mr. Goldwater said: "I've never known a man to be such a loner in any field, business, profession. I know that Mel Laird has quit mainly because to him, Bryce Harlow is re-



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Senator Barry Goldwater

the President wouldn't listen, reportedly quitting for the same reason.

"The President, I think, thinks of himself as the supreme politician in this country," Mr. Goldwater went on. "And being a loner, I think he sits by himself and tells himself what he's going to do."

"Now we have this gesture. Of having Congressmen and Senators down to see him — but it seems to have ended. And this is what I was afraid of—that it would be a one-pitch goal and that would end it."

Mr. Goldwater continued: "It has come to one hell of a pass when a President of the United States has to lay bare all of his income tax records, his income records, his holdings, etc."

"This is the first time I think in history that's happened. I'd like to wonder what would have happened if Lyndon Johnson had been asked to explain how he became a millionaire 40 times over while he served in Washington."

"I mean," Mr. Goldwater went on, "I'm not begrudging the man the money that he made, but if Mr. Nixon is guilty you didn't ask that question and that's beside the point. I think that only time is going to tell whether or not Mr. Nixon can climb back up that ladder. And I would say that we can't say this morning whether or not he's even started back up it."