

President Denies ITT, Milk Charges

SAN CLEMENTE (UPI) — President Nixon says charges that he raised milk price supports and intervened in an ITT antitrust case in return for campaign donations are "totally false."

He declined to make public tapes and other material on the two matters, and a top aide says "Operation Candor" is now completed.

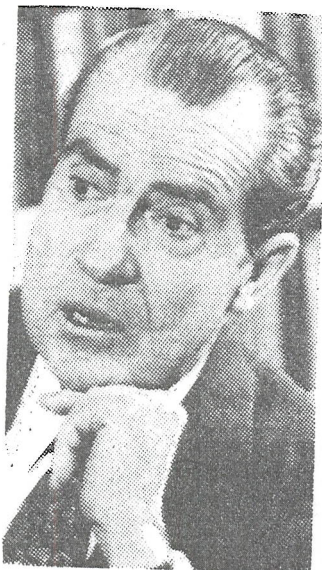
"We're not going to be responding to the constant maligning of the President," a high administration official said. "We're not going to constantly debate the charges in the public arena."

"At the appropriate time, the President will have something to say about Watergate," he added, "but we are not going to spend 1974 waging a political partisan debate about Watergate."

The new denials were made in two written statements, called "white papers," the name once used for British documents of state. They were issued here and in Washington late yesterday, on the eve of Nixon's 61st birthday.

Charges that Nixon ordered federal price milk supports hiked in 1971 in return for political contributions from the dairy industry were branded "totally false."

As for Nixon's 1971 intervention in an antitrust case involving International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., the White



PRESIDENT NIXON
Two white papers

House said the President "was unaware of any commitment by ITT to make a contribution" financing part of the Republican National convention at the time that he tried to halt a Justice Department appeal in the suit.

Nixon acknowledged that he had been informed of the dairy industry's intention to raise funds for him before his decision to increase milk support payments on March 25, 1971.

The dairy industry contributed a total of \$427,000 to the Nixon's re-election campaign. The President ordered the higher milk price support partly out of "traditional political consid-

eration," according to the White House.

The statement said Nixon's advisers told him Congress favored even higher supports and that it could be "politically disastrous" for Nixon if he were to veto dairy legislation.

The other statement said Nixon had instructed then Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst to block an appeal of a key court decision in the ITT antitrust battle on April 19, 1971, but rescinded the order two days later when advised by Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell that Solicitor General Erwin Griswold, who was prosecuting the case, threatened to resign if Nixon refused to prosecute the government case further.

A White House summary said "tapes, papers and other documents" on the two cases, which have been given to special Watergate prosecutors, "are not being publicly released today." It said the President wanted to maintain their "confidentiality."

The President has been working and relaxing at the Western White House for the past two weeks. His top advisers said that he is "cooperating fully" with special prosecutor Leon Jaworski and will continue to turn over to him White House documents.

The President's information counter-offensive, which aides called "Operation Candor," was launched in mid-November and was aimed at mollifying

Watergate critics and answering calls by Republican Party leaders "to clear the air" of politically damaging charges.

Earlier, Nixon's aides had hinted that there also would be "white papers" on the "plumbers," the secret White House surveillance operation set up in 1971, and on the controversial \$100,000 contribution from reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes to Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, Nixon's best friend.

However, the scope of the counter offensive has now been curtailed and Nixon believes that with the public release of his financial and tax statements and the two new "white papers" he has "met his commitments," aides said.

GOP leaders were notified by White House congressional aides of the documents released yesterday. The leaders had expected Nixon to release summaries of the seven Watergate conversations which were turned over to federal judge John J. Sirica.

"We said that we are going to address the charges against the President," an aide said just before yesterday's statements were made public. "We've done that on the financial statement. Now we will address the ITT and the milk fund."

"But we're not going to be in the constant position where the people can constantly malign the President and his administration making us prove the negative," the aide said. "Enough is enough."