

'Candor' Over WXPost

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The White House made it official yesterday that President Nixon has no intention of carrying forward Operation Candor and that he will not make public a promised report on the "Plumbers" operation.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Mr. Nixon "believes he has answered all the questions" in areas relating to Watergate charges.

When asked about the promise to provide a report on the "Plumbers," the White House group which sought to plug White House leaks and which was involved in the break-in of the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Warren said: "I wouldn't expect anything on that subject."

Last week in San Clemente, when the President made public documents on the milk fund case and the antitrust settlement with ITT, spokesmen indicated that they expected no more public reports on Watergate-related matters.

Warren's official confirmation of those intimations came at a morning briefing prior to the latest disclosure.

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sures in U.S. District Court here about a missing segment of a presidential tape.

In November, when Mr. Nixon was meeting with large groups of congressmen to answer Watergate questions, he told Sen. Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) that he would send him a written statement concerning the "Plumbers."

Asked yesterday if he had received any White House material on the subject, Mathias said he had not. After his failure to receive the promised statement, Mathias said, he "dropped a line" to White House counselor Bryce Harlow to prod him.

"He called and renewed the promise," Mathias said, "but notwithstanding the promise I have received nothing."

Warren said that he could not discuss the "Plumbers" operation "because of various legal discussions and grand jury actions."

He did say that "from time to time" the President might speak on the subject, but that he would not expect him to do so while court actions are under way.

"I foresee no statements similar to the ones" on the President's finances or the ITT and milk cases, Warren said.

In November, as Mr. Nixon began a series of meetings with members of Congress to answer Watergate charges, the White House initiative came to be known in the media as "Operation Candor." The White House disclaimed au-

thorship of the expression, but the meetings continued.

On Nov. 17, Mr. Nixon spent more than an hour answering questions at an Associated Press Managing Editors Association meeting in Orlando, Fla. He told the editors that if they wanted more information they should write to him "and I will give it to you. I want the facts out because the facts will prove that the President is telling the truth."

White House officials were disappointed that Operation Candor produced no greater benefits for the President that it apparently did. They expected release of the income tax returns, for example, to rebound to his credit, but instead they provoked a new round of criticism.

The President has not submitted to any questions since his Nov. 17 appearance in Orlando before the managing editors. His most recent press conference was Oct. 26. It is not known when he may hold another one, but there are some indications it will not be soon.

One official, discussing the President's reluctance to face the press, said he is determined to stop being constantly involved in trying to prove a negative.

Nevertheless, the official said the President is going to put everything in perspective at the proper time and label the misconceptions and distortions.

This official maintained that there could be no more disclosures because everything has been made public.