

# Scott Says Nixon Holds Some Proof In Watergate Case

By Peter Milius

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Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said yesterday he has seen some "information" the White House possesses but has not made public that he thinks would prove the President innocent of some "specific items" in the complicated Watergate affair.

Scott said he was "not in a position to talk about" his information in detail, and "I wouldn't want you to misinterpret how complete that is." But he said what he has seen "would indicate that on specific items the President would be exculpated entirely."

Scott said he had tried to persuade the White House to make the information public, but had failed. "I cannot break through the shell down there, of all his advisors, who feel differently about it, who feel that the President no longer needs to make some of these replies," Scott said in an interview on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP).

Scott, at the start of the series of last November efforts by the President and his staff that became known as Operation Candor, was shown a large collection of documents at the White House which he was told the White House was preparing for publication in the President's defense in the Watergate matter.

Included in these documents were summaries of conversations between the President, former White House counsel John W. Dean III and others. Dean claims the President showed in some of these conversations that he was aware of the Watergate cover-up before March 21, the date the President says he first became aware of it.

The summaries, presumably prepared from the President's tape recordings, contained some direct quotations from these conversations, but were not verbatim transcripts.

The Associated Press, quoting an unnamed "informed source," said yesterday that it was these summaries that Scott was referring to on "Face the Nation."

This same "informed source" said the White House decided not to make public its summaries of the conversations for two reasons. One was that there might then be a demand for other summaries. The other was that publication of the Dean summaries might jeopardize prosecution of some unnamed persons expected to be indicted in the Watergate case.

Scott said he had urged the President "to let it all hang out" on Watergate, and specif-



SEN. HUGH SCOTT  
... 'let it all hang out'



GOV. RONALD REAGAN  
... no decision on '76

sion and the director of women's programs with the U.S. Civil Service Commission. He had urged him Friday to "authorize a complete and thorough investigation" by the FBI into the erasure of 18½ minutes from one of the subpoenaed tape recordings in the Watergate affair.

He also said he hopes Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski will "indict everybody who is involved in the Watergate" and "do it as fast as possible."

That, Scott said, would "establish" whether or not there has been any criminal wrongdoing by the President. Scott said he doesn't think there has been any. He also said, "I do not see any impeachable offenses" by the President, adding that in his view the two things are the same: "The decisions all make the point that the President cannot be removed except for a crime, a high crime and misdemeanor."

In another interview yesterday, on "Issues and Answers" (ABC, WMAL), Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), Mr. Nixon's defeated rival in the 1972 presidential election, said he

thinks "there are ample grounds now to proceed with impeachment and to vote a bill of impeachment" in the House. He added that "this doesn't mean conviction of the President," but a trial on the bill of impeachment in the Senate.

McGovern noted that Scott and others have made "these mysterious contentions" that "if the President would just tell us what he has told them we might be less inclined to indict him. Well, all of that presumably could come out, whatever it is," in a Senate trial.

McGovern also said the President is "subject to impeachment for . . . excesses on the part of his subordinates," and not just for criminal acts or other wrongdoing of his own.

In other developments yesterday:

- California Republic Gov. Ronald Reagan said on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC) he has not decided yet whether to seek the presidency in 1976.

- The Committee for Economic Development, an organization of about 200 corporate and university executives, said in a report that "public cynicism concerning the conduct of the presidency is at an all-time high." It called for campaign financing reform, and urged Mr. Nixon "to make the fullest possible disclosure . . . of the sources, uses and amounts" of his campaign funds in 1972.