

SCOTT DECLARES WATERGATE DATA CAN CLEAR NIXON

**Asserts He Cannot 'Break
Shell' of White House
Aides on Publicity**

VOICES HIS FRUSTRATION

**Senator Says He Has Seen
Nothing to Indicate Guilt of
an Impeachable Nature**

By **PAUL DELANEY**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20—
Senator Hugh Scott said today
that he had information that
would clear President Nixon of
any wrongdoing in some
aspects of the Watergate scan-
dals.

The Senate Republican lead-
er made the statement during
a television interview but de-
clined to say what the infor-
mation was.

However, he apparently re-
ferred to information that
White House aides had men-
tioned in making similar state-
ments to reporters in the last
few weeks without providing
evidence to substantiate them.
None of those statements had
been published until today,
when The Associated Press at-
tributed them to White House
sources.

Mentions Better Defense

During the interview on the
Columbia Broadcasting Sys-
tem's "Face the Nation" pro-
gram, Senator Scott twice al-
luded to some unpublished evi-
dence in declaring that the
President had a better defense
than he had made so far.

The Pennsylvania Republi-
can, who met with Mr. Nixon
on Friday, was asked whether
he had information "which
gives you the feeling that the
President can establish his com-
plete innocence?"

"I have the feeling and in-
formation available to me—and
I wouldn't want you to misin-
terpret how complete that is
—which would indicate that on
specific items the President
would be exculpated entirely,
yes," he answered.

Later, Mr. Scott commented:

"I have some information
which is not yet public, which
is enormously frustrating to
me, because it seems to me
to exculpate the President; but
I cannot break through the
shell down there of all of his
advisers, who feel differently
about it, who feel that the
President no longer needs to
make some of these replies.

"I think it would help if he

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The New York Times

Published: January 21, 1974

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Scott Declares Data Can Absolve Nixon

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did. I have found nothing that indicates any guilt on the part of the President of a nature that would be impeachable, but I think they'd help themselves if they told the public some of the things that I know."

Senator Scott said he had urged President Nixon "to let it all hang out" and release the evidence. He did not indicate how the President responded.

The information that White House aides had offered to some reporters was that transcripts of conversations between Mr. Nixon and John W. Dean 3d, former counsel to Mr. Nixon, refuted Mr. Dean's assertions that the President had knowledge of the Watergate cover-up prior to last March 21, the date Mr. Nixon said he learned of the concealment.

Conflict Reported

However, reliable sources reported that the office of the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, had developed evidence damaging to the President's cause that conflicted with the supposed White House transcript. While it has not been learned whether the new evidence involves the President personally in illegal acts, Mr. Jaworski does have specific information on the attempted White House use of the Central Intelligence Agency to stop the Watergate investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation because of "national security," the sources said.

On another interview program, Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, the 1972 Democratic nominee for President, said there were ample grounds for impeaching President Nixon, and an impeachment trial would clear up the contentions made by Senator Scott and Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee.

"We have these mysterious contentions from Senator Baker and Senator Scott and others that if the President would just tell us what he has told them we might be less inclined to indict him," Mr. McGovern said on the American Broadcasting Company program, "Issues and Answers."

"Well, all of that could presumably come out, whatever it is. I have no idea what they are talking about, but an impeachment trial is a fair system."

Mr. McGovern also said he would like to see the Democratic party go on record in fa-

vor of impeachment to bring the matter before trial in the Senate. He added, "I'd like to see that supported by a good many Republicans."

Further, he disagreed with Vice President Ford that the drive for impeachment was led by liberal Democrats. Mr. McGovern said that what he termed his own restraint in pressing the effort was an indication that liberals were not overzealous to impeach.

Senator Scott said on his program that some Democrats might want to prolong impeachment proceedings for political reasons. However, he said, he did not think the movement for impeachment was a

political one yet. But he said he had been told of "some members of the House Judiciary Committee (which is considering impeachment) who are making assumptions of what they are going to do in advance of the evidence."

The Republican leader, who has been as close to President Nixon as anyone in Congress, said that "Operation Candor," whereby the President sought to improve his public image by the release of certain documents and more public appearances, was still in effect. He said he expected more statements and news conferences by Mr. Nixon after the State of the Nation Message on Jan. 30.



Associated Press

**Senator Hugh Scott facing
news cameras yesterday.**

The New York Times

Published: January 21, 1974

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