SFChronicle MAR 1 3 1974 New Mills Remark On Nixon Taxes

Washington

Representative Wilbur Mills contended yesterday that congressional findings on President Nixon's taxes will do more to force his resignation than Watergate, "simply because people understand taxes."

Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said, "I have no idea" if tax fraud might be involved. "I said specifically I was not accusing the President."

At a news conference last Friday in Little Rock, Ark., Mills said he expects Mr. Nixon to resign, primarily because of a report being prepared by the House-Senate Internal Revenue Taxation Committee, of which he is vice chairman.

Mills told newsmen yesterday he does not know if the President had personal detailed knowledge of controversial deductions such as the \$482,000 deduction for his vice presidential papers.

The Arkansas Democrat refused to comment on White House statements that he is taking cheap shots at the President and that if he has any evidence for his allegations he should "put up or shut up."

Mills repeated that the committee report, to be issued in 30 to 40 days, will do more to force the President's resignation than Watergate.

Mills said later in an interview: "What I said was that the tax issue could hurt the President more than Watergate — simply because people understand taxes.

"If the figures that have been talked about — \$250,000 or \$300,000 owed — are correct, people certainly will be asking questions," Mills said.

Associated Press