

# Romney Suspects Nixon Knew

## Washington

George Romney, former cabinet officer in the Nixon administration, suggested yesterday that the President had foreknowledge of events in the Watergate scandal because of his relationship with his closest aides.

"Men like Mitchell, Stans, Haldeman, and Ehrlichman didn't do anything that didn't meet with his consent," Romney told reporters at a breakfast meeting. "Those men had complete loyalty to him — if anything they had blind loyalty."

Romney emphasized he had no first hand knowledge of the situation. He said he based his statements on his experience as secretary of housing and urban development during President Nixon's first four years in office.

"Based on my experi-

ence," Romney said, "they didn't do things they didn't think were in accord with his wishes or that he didn't know about."

"They couldn't have been more loyal, they couldn't have been more dedicated to doing what he wanted."

Despite his stated belief that Mr. Nixon would have been told of Watergate-related actions by his subordinates, Romney said he does not believe the President should resign from office.

Resignation, he said, would only create divisiveness that would make it more difficult for the new president to lead the country.

The best way to minimize the divisiveness, he said, "is through the impeachment process."

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