

572 5-7-74

First Public Remark

Ex-Gov. Brown on Nixon

Sacramento

Former Governor Edmund G. Brown said yesterday that reading the Watergate 'tapes' transcript had convinced him that President Nixon should follow the lead of West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and resign.

It was the first public remark by Brown, a Democrat who defeated Mr. Nixon in the 1962 California gubernatorial race, about Mr. Nixon's Watergate troubles.

Brown also told a news conference that "beyond a doubt" Governor Ronald Reagan is running for president now and said he has "a mighty good chance of getting the Republican nomination" in 1976.

The former governor said

he would have preferred to see Mr. Nixon avoid impeachment, but he said the tapes' transcript coupled with the shock expressed by GOP congressmen now make impeachment inescapable — unless Mr. Nixon would resign.

Brown noted that Brandt resigned "with a great deal of urging" when he learned a spy infiltrated his inner circle, and said Mr. Nixon should follow a similar course to prevent lengthy national turmoil over the issue.

"Resignation was not an admission of guilt in the Willy Brandt case and I don't think it would be with Nixon either," he added.

Brown said that at the least Mr. Nixon was guilty of "willful negligence" for

appointing so many top aides who have been indicted or found guilty of crimes related to the Watergate burglary.

He said he had been "very reluctant" to comment about Mr. Nixon's Watergate problems because he had defeated Mr. Nixon in 1962 and his remarks might have been inappropriate.

Brown also announced his support for Proposition 9, the political reform initiative, saying it "will tend to bring more integrity to politics in California." His son, Edmund G. Brown Jr. — a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination — played a part in drafting the June 4 ballot measure.

Brown also said he has raised about \$50,000 for his son's gubernatorial campaign



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EDMUND G. BROWN
'Willful negligence'

and will be making speeches throughout California this month on his son's behalf.

United Press