

# WATERGATE

## Why Nixon is standing firm

Examiner News Services

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla. — President Nixon was described yesterday as assuming a firm stand "to defend his office against excessive encroachment."

Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said Nixon was facing "very difficult decisions" but views it as "his unique responsibility to the office of the presidency and the Constitution" to resist the mounting pressures.

ing Nixon is determining how to respond to a request filed Friday by the Watergate special prosecutor that the Supreme Court decide how far Nixon can go in using claims of executive privilege to withhold materials from Watergate investigators. Four of the nine

justices are Nixon appointees.

Nixon also is under orders from U.S. District Judge

Gerhard Gesell to say in writing that he understands White House refusal to turn over subpoenaed materials is likely to lead to dismissal

of charges against two former top presidential aides.

"President Nixon feels he has to act on principles he thinks are the lasting ones and he has to do — in this highly pressurized time — what is right," Ziegler said.

Ziegler said White House lawyers are considering a response to the Supreme Court appeal by special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Talking to reporters here, Ziegler was asked if Nixon would abide by the court's decision.

"We're not going to speculate on any Supreme Court decision at this time," Ziegler said.

The Court's next regularly scheduled public meeting is

<sup>26 MAY</sup>  
 Tuesday. It could take up Jaworski's petition privately afterwards, or delay consideration for as long as it

wishes. It could accept the case, or tell Jaworski to go back and proceed through the normal channel of the

Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court is unlikely to act until it hears from Nixon, and court ob-

servers believe it either could ask the White House for a response or just wait until one arrives.