

From news report on Sen. Lowell Weicker's minority report. (First few words missed on tape.)

.... said today that "We almost lost America to subversives, terrorists and extremists of the White House." Weicker has released a 146-page report to the other members of the panel, spelling out his individual views. He is a member of the Senate Watergate committee, which goes out of existence at midnight tomorrow.

"Several years ago," said Weicker, "many Americans were willing to silently tolerate illegal government activity against militants, terrorists or subversives as an expeditious way to circumvent the precise processes of our justice system. Though quick, they have also proved to be a short step to using illegal tactics against any dissenting Americans. The result was, we almost lost America - not to subversives, terrorists or extremists of the streets, but to subversives, terrorists and extremists who operated in the White House."

Weicker offered 17 recommendations, including making all forms of wiretapping illegal, direct (?) primaries for all federal elective offices, making the Attorney General an elective office, and establishing a joint Congressional committee with complete investigative powers and rotating membership to monitor all domestic intelligence-gathering and law-enforcement activities.

"Evidence presented to this committee," says Weicker, "can and will demonstrate that every major substantive part of the Constitution was violated, abused and undermined during the Watergate period." Weicker's staff said the report listed at least 370 violations of the law and the Constitution by President Nixon's administration and re-election committee. One sentence in the report detailing the violations ran 14 pages long, starting with a reference to White House aide Tom Charles Huston's 1970 master intelligence plan and ending with a reference to Nixon re-election aide Robert Odle's testimony about a secret letter-writing campaign against Republican senators.

Senator Weicker said that no administration in his lifetime had a worse record of convictions in relation to indictments. "Why?" asked Weicker. "Because it tried to achieve law and order by lawlessness. It was the courts that said 'No,' not the Justice Department."

Weicker said it was difficult for him as a Republican to say what he was saying, but speaking out was "patriotism far better suited to 1974 than to 1972's wearing of flag lapel pins by White House and CREEP employes while they advocated burglary, wiretapping, committed perjury, politicized justice, impugned the patriotism of those who disagreed with them, and threw our process into the paper shredder."

Weicker also said the Constitutional provision relating to the Presidency was violated from beginning to end by Watergate, the Republican party has been generally emasculated, Watergate left a distorted intelligence community whose historic professionalism has been badly damaged, and that Watergate challenged the very underpinnings of American politics and ^{the} American political condition.

[End.]