

Humphrey's Spirited Defense of Finances

Washington

"With the Lord Jesus Christ as my guide, that was as honest a deal as kissing your mother," Senator Hubert Humphrey (Dem-Minn.) declared.

Humphrey' still angry over reports of a Senate Watergate staff study of his 1972 presidential campaign finances, said late Thursday that he did nothing illegal in using more than \$100,000 of his own money in his campaign and concealing that fact from the public.

He had already issued a formal denial earlier, but late at night he made an emotional telephone call to an AP reporter.

The money represented "a lifetime of investment" by himself and his wife Muriel, he said.

Humphrey said he omitted any mention of the use of personal funds when he vol-

untarily disclosed his finances during Democratic presidential primaries because at that time the law didn't require full disclosure and because he wanted to conceal the matter from his family.

"I didn't like to have to contribute that money, but we had to do it if we were going to campaign," Humphrey said.

Humphrey said the Watergate staff report was written by a Republican staff member, Donald Sanders, and he said he resented the tone and implications of the report. "It just ends up that you look like a burglar," he said.

Associated Press