

WXPPost
Watergate



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Evidence gathered by the Senate select Watergate Committee demonstrates that "every major substantive part of the Constitution was violated, abused and undermined during the Watergate period," a report prepared by Republican Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. asserts.

Weicker, a member of the committee and an outspoken critic of the Nixon Administration's conduct in the Watergate affair, said: "The indisputable ugliness of Watergate is of such a scope as to categorize it as a sheer insanity, either for those who participated in it or have since defended it. I don't know, except as the courts have already passed judgment, who is guilty or who is innocent.

"But I do know that to accept the White House version of your Constitution, your government and your politics is to counterfeit America," the Connecticut senator said in his report to the public.

In all, Weicker cited what he said were 370 Constitutional or law violations committed in the course of Watergate in what he called his "individual views" on testimony taken by the committee from 62 witnesses over 52 days. A full committee report is expected to be made public in mid-July.

In his report, Weicker lists numerous examples from sworn testimony taken by the committee to support his charge that "there is massive evidence of misuse of the awesome general powers that reside in the executive department." Weicker's report does not mention any names, attrib-

Associated Press

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. decries "one White House horror after another."

Is Called 'Sheer Insanity'

uting the abuses and violations only to the executive branch of government.

He holds President Nixon directly or indirectly responsible for many of the abuses, but does not address the question of whether the President should be impeached.

White House press aide Bruce Whelihan said yesterday that the White House had not been provided a copy of Weicker's report. "Frankly," Whelihan said, "we cannot understand why the Senator has moved to launch a fresh attack on the President and the White House staff when the Senate Select Committee on which he serves is so near to issuing its final report."

Weicker states that after discussions with his staff they deliberately chose in his report to discuss "the known" rather than to release new information "in order to impress upon the reader the importance of (the Watergate affair's) implications rather than explode new facts of scandal. We were convinced White House strategy was (is) [sic] geared to numbering America's past concern by inundating America with one White House horror after another."

In contrast to other draft reports prepared by the committee staff for inclusion in the final report, Weicker's statement is personal in tone, drawing on his own experience, background and beliefs.

"I was taught early on, first by my Dad and then by the United States Army, that rank has its privileges because rank has its responsibilities," Weicker says. "Yet in the case of this President, I've heard the word 'privilege' used over and over again as a dodge of

responsibility. The word 'stonewall' has been used to describe the President's defense. Believe me, it has been and continues to be a 'human wall.'"

At another point in the report, defending the Republican Party, Weicker asserts, "Richard Nixon understood the strong base of integrity that is a Republican heritage. Because he rejected it . . . is no reason for any Republican to do so now."

According to Weicker, the broad grant to power to the President by the Constitution was not meant to permit him "to conduct the executive branch in conflict with the Constitution taken as a whole, and certainly not in conflict with express sections of the Constitution, such as the Bill of Rights, or Article 1 (the legislature) of Article III (the judiciary)."

"The facts, according to Weicker, show "an executive branch that approved a master intelligence plan containing proposals that were specifically identified as illegal."

The report catalogues White House-sponsored activities that included: hiring private investigators to conduct political investigations for the White House into the private lives, domestic problems, drinking habits, social activities and sexual habits of politicians and private figures; an "enemies list"; attempts to conceal the White House-inspired break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist; "warrantless wiretaps" of reporters and government officials; use of campaign funds for "hush money for the Watergate burglars" and an

attempt to falsify State Department cables to implicate President Kennedy in the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

In all, the report lists more than 80 instances of actions that Weicker asserts violate "the concept of executive power in Article II of the Constitution."

Similarly, the report lists scores of examples in which Weicker asserts the constitution was violated or abused in terms of misuse of power, attempts to thwart Congressional investigations and interference with the judicial process.

Weicker's report also cites instances in which the White House attempted to intimidate the press and other media while also trying to manipulate the media by selectively leaking information to it as examples of undermining the First Amendment by the Nixon Administration.

"The official press spokesman for the White House consistently told the press and the American people versions of Watergate that were not true, when he and those who prepared them were in a position to know, or in fact knew, that his statements were untrue," the report asserts. "The President himself misled the press in news conferences and official statements, as to the investigation, its results, and the substance of evidence involving himself and the Watergate matter."

"Several years ago," Weicker states in a section containing his opinions, "many Americans were willing to silently tolerate illegal government activity against mili-

tants, terrorists or subversives as an expeditious way to circumvent the precise process of our justice system. Though quick, it also proved to be only a short step to using such 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 of the White House."

The conclusion of Weicker's report contains 17 recommendations for legislation or constitutional amendments, including:

- An absolute prohibition on "all forms of domestic electronic surveillance, including wiretapping."

- Transforming the Attorney Generalship into an elective office.

- Establishing a joint congressional committee to monitor domestic intelligence-gathering and law enforcement activities throughout the executive branch.

- Requiring Senate confirmation of senior White House officials.

- Requiring a Presidential candidate, after securing the party's nomination, to have his run by the party rather than by a separate organization.

6 Killed by Shell

SAPPORO, Japan, June 29

—Six Japanese soldiers were killed and six others injured when a mortar shell exploded accidentally during firing practice at a range near here today, the Defense Agency said.