

Fewer Cries Of Dirty Politics

Washington

Complaints of dirty politics are down 50 per cent this year, the Fair Campaign Practices Committee announced yesterday. It gave "Watergate backlash credit for the reduction.

The committee, a private organization formed in 1954, said it had received 23 complaints in the last three weeks of the 1972 campaign, but only 11 complaints were made in the same period of 1974.

"I know that candidates are running cleaner campaigns because they realize voters will react against anything that smells of Watergate smear tactics," committee chairman Charles P. Taft said in a statement.

The committee remained optimistic that the "political sewage . . . will not be nearly as bad as 1972," noting that five times as many candidates signed its code of fair practices in the first four months of 1974 than in 1972.

The committee has no legal authority, but seeks to give ethical campaigning a boost by publicizing unfair tactics.

United Press