JAN 6 1975 Nixon and Knowledge Of Break-in

New York

The chief prosecutor in the Watergate trial has told Time magazine he doesn't think former President Richard M. Nixon knew in advance of the Watergate break-in.

Time said the prosecutor, James Neal, stated flatly that Mr. Nixon didn't authorize the bugging.

In support of his opinion, Neal noted that tapes revealed that Mr. Nixon showed "some surprise" when told of the break-in,

Neal, who resigned last week after the trial, said Mr. Nixon was at least indirectly responsible for the actions of his aides.

"Watergate goes back to the nature of the big man," Neal said.

Associated Press