

Warren Says Nixon Committed Crimes

Deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren said yesterday that he believed Richard M. Nixon committed "crimes" while President but that he is still a "national asset" who ought to travel and speak out on national issues at some later date.

Warren said on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP) that the tape recording released the week of Nixon's resignation in August, 1974, clearly showed obstruction of justice. The tape referred to contained the former President's instructions to chief of staff H. R. Halderman to halt FBI investigations of Watergate.

"When I say I think it was a crime, I refer to what was before the (House) Judiciary Committee . . . I don't mean to say it should be brought to court, I'm thinking of it in the sense of the impeachment inquiry that was under way at that time," Warren said.

Warren was a main White House spokesman in the Watergate period and stayed on to serve President Ford. He is leaving the administration to become editor of a San Diego, Calif. newspaper this week.

Warren visited his former boss in California recently and said he found him in "excellent spirits, perceptive



GERALD L. WARREN
... leaving White House

in his comments, forceful, feeling well and looking well." He said Nixon would probably have to take anti-coagulants against blood clots for the rest of his life.

"I think he has strong views in the field of domestic and foreign affairs and I think he should be heard," Warren said.

On current political matters, Warren said he thought Mr. Ford would have a "tough time" in a Republican primary election in California against ex-Gov. Ronald Reagan. "It would not be an easy primary for him to win," said Warren, who added he personally saw "no reason not to support" Mr. Ford.