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New York

The deputy managing editor of the New York Times said yesterday that the newspaper stands by its account of what former President Richard Nixon has written about the Watergate scandal.

A Times story Wednesday reported that Mr. Nixon will maintain innocence of any wrongdoing. The story was branded a piece of speculation by a spokesman for the former president.

Frank Gannon, who is directing research for Mr. Nixon, said in San Clemente: "The story is false because former President Nixon has not yet written the section of his book dealing with Watergate. Only Richard Nixon knows what he is going to say about Watergate."

"We stand by (Wednesday's) report in the New York Times on the Nixon memoirs," said deputy managing editor Seymour Topping.

"Obviously Mr: Nixon would have license to alter his views before actual publication of his book."

Associated Press