

No Evidence Found To Link Nixon With Watergate

WASHINGTON (AP)—There is no evidence, as of now, to implicate President Nixon either in the Watergate bugging activities or in any subsequent attempts to cover them up, sources close to the Watergate investigations said Tuesday.

However, investigations by both the Justice Department and a Senate committee are continuing.

"I'm not ruling out any possibility at some future point, but as of this moment, we haven't got evidence that implicates President Nixon," one investigator said. "We go where the evidence leads us and as of now it hasn't led us to the President."

In a speech to the nation Monday night, Nixon said he accepted ultimate responsibility for the events surrounding the Watergate affair, but said again he didn't

know how potentially serious the matter was until six weeks ago.

"New information then came to me, which persuaded me that there was a real possibility that some of these charges were true and suggesting further there had been an effort to conceal the facts, both from the public—from you—and from me," Nixon said.

Exactly what that new information was is unclear, but be-

tween the time Nixon received it, on March 21, and April 17, the day he announced "major developments" in the case, these events transpired, according to several sources close to the case:

—On March 20, Judge John J. Sirica, the Watergate trial judge, received a letter from convicted Watergate burglar James W. McCord in which McCord said high-

er-ups were involved, that there was perjury in the Watergate trial and that the defendants had been pressured to plead guilty.

—Federal investigators probing the Watergate case turned up evidence involving, among others former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and presidential assistants John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Halde-

man.

—After discussing the evidence at length among themselves, federal prosecutors decided the possible implication of men so close to Nixon was news which had to be transmitted to the President without delay.

—Several of the men, led by Earl J. Silbert, chief Watergate prosecutor, took the news to Henry E. Petersen, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division.

—On Sunday, April 15, White

House Counsel John W. Dean III, who had been implicated in the Watergate case, went to Petersen and told him that acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III had burned the files relating to the Watergate case. He also told Petersen that two convicted Watergate defendants had burgled the office of a psychiatrist in an effort to get the records there of Daniel Ellsberg, principal de-

fendant in the Pentagon Paper trial.

—Armed with information from Dean and federal prosecutors Petersen went to Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst and, on the same day, April 15, Kleindienst and Petersen met with Nixon.

It was two days later, on April 17, that Nixon publicly announced there had been "major developments" in the Watergate case.

Achievement Awards Given 12 Students

Fred C. Campbell Jr., William E. Hartsfield, Michael K. Lindsey and Cathleen Schnatterly have received College of Science Faculty Achievement Awards.

Each of these students will graduate May 5. They were selected by a committee of the College of Science faculty on the basis of their high scholastic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

Eight other seniors earned Distinguished Honor Awards for "outstanding scholarship and leadership" from the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. W. David Maxwell, dean of the College, presented awards to economics majors Layne E. Kruse, McGregor; and Stephen G. Metzenthin, Brownsville; modern languages major Mary Beth Beard, Bryan, and philosophy major David H. Donaldson, Odessa.

Other recipients are psychology majors Samuel J. Buser, Sulphur Springs, and Stephen D. Clodfelter, College Station; and sociology majors Jeanne L. Harris, Houston, and William V. Wade, McGregor.

Liberal arts faculty members select the recipients from the graduating seniors each semester.

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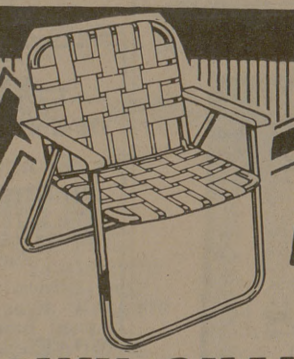
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