

'Find, hang' tape leakers

By John Hall
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WASHINGTON — White House communications director Kenneth Clawson said yesterday whoever has been leaking material from the presidential tape recordings "ought to be found, tried and hung."

"It's a dirty goddam game that has been played against us for months," he said in an interview, responding to reports from unidentified sources that one of the tapes contains "explosive" information implicating Nixon in the Watergate coverup.

"Those sons of bitches who are selectively leaking this material ought to be found, tried and hung," he said. "You may quote me on that."

Clawson responded to news reports that the tape of Nixon's March 21, 1973, conversation with John W. Dean III, his former counsel, showed that the president did not disapprove of hush money payments to the Watergate conspirators.

Clawson said he does not know who originated that report but "you know who's got the tapes — Jaworski's staff and the House committee."

"You could take a page out of the Bible and prove that Jesus Christ was in league with the devil," Clawson said. He said it was obvious that someone has been selectively extracting material from the tapes and leaking it to incriminate the President.