Burch Continues Attack on Impeachment Move

Committee's Fairness Hit

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 20—President Nixon's counselor Dean Burch today called the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment proceeding a "blind, cataract jurisprudence."

Emerging [illegible] daily White House [illegible] on the [illegible] business. Shortly [illegible] Burch said the President [illegible] the committee [illegible] as it [illegible] for televised hearings, Burch said.

Burch expressed confidence that the full House would refuse to move to impeachment [illegible].

[illegible] White House [illegible] the fairness and security of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.) [illegible] whether the President believed the committee [illegible] as saying his role [illegible] to make sure Rodino [illegible] too damn fair. "He has succeeded," Burch said.

Ziegler argued that President Nixon's remark in a White House transcript of a March 22, 1973, talk that a Watergate defendant got a seven sentence was a reflection of speculation in the press. No sentences were handed down until March 23.

Ziegler said there was much speculation in the press before March 22 that the defendants could receive long sentences.

On Jan. 31, all the network and wire services reported that the defendants could be sentenced to between 35 and life, Ziegler said.

There were subsequent stories speculating on how long the sentences might be, the press secretary said.

However, Ziegler did not explain why Mr. Nixon spoke in the last issue on March 22, about the sentence long after it did not occur until the next day.

In the transcript presented Thursday by Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski and the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Nixon is quoted as saying on March 22, 1973: "That, uh, judge gave him 35 years."

It was not clear from the edited White House transcript, which consisted of 27½ pages of excerpts of a one-hour, 23-minute conversation between Mr. Nixon and his then-chief of staff, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, whether the President was referring to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica's sentencing of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. or G. Gordon Liddy. Immediately before Mr. Nixon's comment in the transcript, Haldeman had been discussing Liddy.

On March 23, 1973, Sirica [illegible] Hunt a prison [illegible] years [illegible] and Liddy [illegible] a [illegible] sentence [illegible] Nixon [illegible] sentence on March [illegible] puzzling because the White House transcript of a conversation between Mr. Nixon and Haldeman and then with White House counsel John W. Dean III on March 21, 1973—two days before the sentencing—made several references to it as a future event.

At one point Dean says "We don't know who they will be sentenced to. There's always a chance—"

The President interrupts: "Thirty years, isn't it?"

Dean: "It could be. You know, they haven't announced yet, but it—"

President—"Top is 30 years, isn't it?"

Dean—"It is even higher than that. It is about 50 years. It all—"

President—"So ridiculous."

At another point Dean says, "Well, so much depends on how Sirica sentences. He can sentence in a way that makes parole even impossible."

And Mr. Nixon replies, "He can."

Watergate Indictment