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Court Action On 64 Tapes Postponed By Judge Sirica

WASHINGTON (AP) — Court action on 64 presidential tapes was postponed Monday, indicating an accommodation may be in the works to avoid a court fight between the White House and the special Watergate prosecutor.

The five-day postponement was on a hearing on a White House motion to quash a subpoena for the tapes. U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica moved the hearing from Wednesday to May 13.

"The continuance was granted for the purpose of facilitating discussions leading to possible compliance with the subpoena," the judge said.

White House counsel James D. St. Clair said he had asked for the extra five days "to permit the special prosecutor and myself to see whether we can come to some accommodation."

In his motion last week to halt the subpoena St. Clair had indicated that the fight might be carried to the Supreme Court.

And he maintained in television interviews Sunday that President Nixon has handed out all the "relevant" tapes and transcripts he is going to.

The judge's announcement indicated there is a possibility an agreement can be worked out to avoid a fight similar to last

year when the White House went to the U.S. Court of Appeals to avoid yielding other subpoenaed tapes.

St. Clair and Jaworski met with Sirica Monday to work out the delay. The meeting was at just about the time when Jaworski was to have delivered his response to the White House motion.

The deadline for filing that response was put off until Friday.

Twenty of the 64 conversations subpoenaed were made public last week in the edited transcripts distributed by the White House.

But where those transcripts covered mainly presidential

conversations that took place in February, March and April last year, the Jaworski subpoena asked for tapes of Nixon's talks with his aides as early as June 4, 1972, and as late as June 4, 1973.

All are charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice in covering up the 1972 break-in of Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex.