

Committee Is Expected To Subpoena Tapes

FP Oct 7/23/73

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has informed the Senate Watergate committee that President Nixon will not surrender White House documents and tapes of presidential conversations, The Associated Press learned Sunday.

The Senate panel is scheduled to meet in executive session

Monday to receive Nixon's letter of refusal, and all indications are that the seven-man committee will vote unanimously to issue a subpoena for the Watergate-related materials.

The President earlier refused Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr.'s request for White House documents and

pointedly rejected the committee chairman's suggestions that the President appear voluntarily before the committee to defend himself against charges by John W. Dean III that Nixon participated in the Watergate cover-up.

After discovering that since 1971 Nixon had recorded his meetings and telephone calls from his Washington offices, Ervin renewed the request for documents, expanding the committee's shopping list to include tapes of presidential conversations with Watergate figures.

White House officials had indicated the request would be denied, and it was learned that word of the refusal was conveyed to the committee Sunday. Details of the President's position were not revealed.

The President held a 90-minute Watergate strategy meeting Saturday with chief of staff Alexander M. Haig, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler and two presidential attorneys, Leonard Garment and J. Fred Buzhardt.

The White House, meanwhile, was setting up defenses on other fronts to keep the committee investigators from coming through a side entrance as they did last week by eliciting from a peripheral witness the revelation that Nixon's offices and telephones were bugged.

When committee staff members tried to interview Rose Mary Woods, the President's confidential secretary and executive assistant, White House officials objected.

When the senators sought to question Secret Service agents about the installation of electronic eavesdropping equipment in presidential offices, Nixon ordered his bodyguard force not to talk.

White House officials said the President wasn't backing away from earlier promises of cooperation with the committee.

Meanwhile, the committee's public hearings draw nearer to the President's Oval Office with the two men once closest to Nixon scheduled to testify.
