

Dispute on Cox, Tapes Moves To Hill, Courts

Rot 10/23/73
The boiling controversy over President Nixon's intervention in the Watergate investigation moves into Congress and the courts today.

Mr. Nixon's lawyers are scheduled to appear before U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica to defend the President's plan to make summaries of the Watergate tapes, verified by Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), available to Sirica and the Senate Watergate committee.

If Sirica is not satisfied that the arrangement meets the requirements of his own and the appellate court rulings on the tapes, it was learned, he is considering holding the President in contempt. Sirica has been investigating the procedures to be used in such a contempt proceeding against the chief executive.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate reassemble after a holiday weekend to consider impeachment or other action against the President. House Democratic leaders agreed tentatively yesterday to ask the Judiciary Committee to make a preliminary investigation of the impeachment question, but the decision is subject to review at a broader leadership meeting today.

On Wednesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider a separate investigation of Mr. Nixon's firing of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and the related resignations of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus.