

# Tape Believed Cut to Hide Nixon's Urging of Cover-Up

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By Lawrence Meyer  
Washington Post Staff Writer

A March 17, 1973, presidential tape was apparently edited before being made public by the White House to eliminate a passage in which President Nixon urged that the Watergate cover-up investigation be blocked from implicating himself and his top aide, according to evidence released yesterday by the House Judiciary Committee.

According to the Judiciary Committee's "statement of information" on the cover-up, Mr. Nixon told then White House Counsel John W. Dean III, "We've got to cut that off. We can't have that go to (then White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman.)"

"The President said," according to the Judiciary Committee document, "that looking to the future there were problems and that (former Nixon campaign official Jeb Stuart) Magruder could bring it to Haldeman and that could bring it to the White House, to the President."

"The President said, 'We've got to cut that back. That ought to be cut out.'"

The Judiciary Committee document noted that this entire passage was not contained in the March 17, 1973, transcript of the Nixon-Dean meeting supplied to the Committee by the White House on April 30, 1974.

According to the Committee report, however, the Committee has obtained a June 4, 1973, White House tape in which President Nixon, "after having listened to the tape recording of the March 17, 1973, meeting," discussed his recollections of it with presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler and revealed the comments disclosed by the Committee yesterday.

The statements attributed to President Nixon by the Committee appear to be doubly damaging to him since they contradict his

previous assertions that he knew nothing of the cover-up until March 21, 1973, and because they also appear to show him as an advocate of the cover-up.

The Judiciary Committee report on "Events following the Watergate break-in" during the period from June 30, 1972, until March 22, 1973, examines crucial months in which the cover-up was conceived and carried out.

The 1,281 pages of Judiciary Committee evidence for this period contain relatively little that has not previously been made public. But the report's documented chronological accounts puts individual events of the cover-up into perspective and provides the clearest official account yet of how Nixon re-election committee  
See COVER-UP, A17, Col. 1

## The Watergate Evidence

- A special 12-page section of excerpts from the House Judiciary Committee's report on the evidence it has obtained in its impeachment investigation of President Nixon begins on Page A21.
- Stories based on the report and other stories related to Watergate are on Pages A15 to A17.