

Nixon to Give Hill,

10/20/73
By Jane Denison

United Press International

President Nixon announced last night that an agreement had been reached with the Senate Watergate committee that edited information from his Watergate tapes would be made available to the Senate investigators and the judge presiding over the Watergate grand jury and a Supreme Court ruling would not be pursued.

Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) was named to authenticate the editing of the tapes. Mr. Nixon said he would be given access to "every requested tape" in order to verify the statement "is full and accurate."

At the same time, Mr. Nixon ordered Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, whose suit touched off the historic constitutional confrontation, "to make no further attempts by judicial process to obtain tapes, notes or memoranda of presidential conversations."

Mr. Nixon's announcement was written, and was conveyed to reporters by the White House press office.

The compromise editing of the materials reportedly was agreed to by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, and the panel's ranking Republican, Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., of Tennessee.

Cox had rejected the compromise.

Here is the proposal accepted by Ervin and Baker, as described in Nixon's words:

"... as quickly as materials could be prepared, there would be submitted to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica through a statement, prepared by me personally from the subpoenaed tapes, a full disclosure of everything contained in those tapes that has any bearing on Watergate. The authenticity of this summary would be assured by giving unlimited access to the tapes to a very distinguished man, highly respected, by all elements in American life for his integrity, his fairness, and his patriotism, so that man could satisfy himself that the statement prepared by me did include fairly and

Court Summary of Tapes

accurately anything on the tapes that might be regarded as related to Watergate."

The decision was announced in a 1,000-word presidential statement just 3½ hours before the deadline for either meeting a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling to turn over all requested tapes to Judge Sirica or to appeal that decision to the Supreme Court.

Ervin and Baker agreed to the procedure in a 40-minute conference with Mr. Nixon early last night. Cox, who discussed the matter with Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson earlier this week, rejected it but was overruled by the President's move would satisfy Sirica.

It was not clear, however, whether Sirica, who is presiding over the grand jury, or the Circuit Court of Appeals. The appellate court last week upheld a Sirica order directing the President to make the nine tapes requested by Cox available to him to hear in private and determine what information was relevant to Cox's investigation.

Cox had gone to court to secure tapes of nine White House conversations between Mr. Nixon and aides after the White House refused to honor a subpoena for them.

Cox contended they contained evidence of whether Mr. Nixon knew in advance about the June, 1972, break-in at the Watergate headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, and

whether he knew about or participated in an ensuing cover-up aimed at protecting high White House aides.

The Senate Watergate committee had sought five tapes for much the same reasons, but Sirica threw out their suit Thursday on grounds his court had no jurisdiction in a civil suit. The Cox litigation involves a criminal suit.

"I have concluded that it is necessary to take decisive actions that will avoid any possibility of a constitutional crisis and that will lay the groundwork upon which we can assure unity of purpose at home and end the temptation abroad to test our resolve," Mr. Nixon said.