

# Ervin Says Nixon 'Advice' Reflects Earlier Testimony

WASHINGTON. (AP) — Chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. of the Senate Watergate committee said Tuesday that President Nixon's advice to his staff to "stonewall" and "cover-up" perfectly reflects previous testimony on how the White House planned to deal with the committee.

"The plan was to pretend in

public to cooperate, but at the same time to do everything possible to obstruct and impede the committee's investigation," Ervin said in an interview.

A transcript of a March 22, 1973, conversation released Tuesday by the House Judiciary Committee has Nixon telling his top aides: "I want you all to stonewall it, let them plead the Fifth Amendment, cover-up or anything else, if it'll save it, save the plan. That's the whole point."

Ervin was asked to characterize Nixon's use of the phrase, "cover-up."

"I think that was a very apt expression," Ervin said. "But those are the President's words and who am I to comment on his words."

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R-Conn., agreed with Ervin in saying that the new transcript tends to support the public testimony for former White House counsel John W. Dean III.

Dean said a plan had been agreed on by the President's top aides "to show cooperation in public but to footdrag in private," Weicker said.

"This is just one more piece of evidence," he said, then added:

"The sad part of this is that the President has said that during this period he was engaged in a search for the truth"

Vice Chairman Howard H. Baker, R-Tenn., was asked to characterize the President's words.

"He just did," Baker said of Nixon, "I can't characterize it until I finish reading the transcript."