

President Relaxes at Camp David

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By William Claiborne
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Amid strong signals that the White House is preparing to make public the contents of the controversial Watergate tapes and other presidential documents within about five weeks, President Nixon relaxed at his Camp David retreat yesterday, awaiting a Monday meeting with 50 Republican congressmen, governors and other party leaders.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon has scheduled a breakfast meeting Monday with the Republican Coordinating Committee. The session will be the first of what appears to be a planned series of meetings this week to convince party and congressional leaders that the President intends to overcome his Watergate difficulties.

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon is considering several proposals for meetings with members of Congress during the week. Presumably they will be similar in topical substance to a session held Friday at the White House.

Sen. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.), who attended the Friday session, yesterday quoted Mr. Nixon as saying that the White House tapes and other Watergate-related documents will be made public once they are submitted to the federal grand jury.

Aiken said it is his understanding that the President cannot make the Watergate tapes and documents public until after they are given to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica and the grand jury.

"The President will apparently be glad to confide with the public," said Aiken. "My impression is very strong that he is willing to release everything relating to the Watergate without being in contempt of court."

Aiken said his understanding is that it would be about five weeks before the court would permit release of the documents. He said he did not know whether the materials to be released would be the original tapes or summaries.

After a three-month battle over nine taped presidential conversations, Mr. Nixon capitulated on Oct. 23 and agreed to turn over the tapes that had been demanded by two courts.

Subsequently, however, White House lawyers told Sirica that two of the conversations were never taped in the first place. The White House has suggested that Mr. Nixon is willing to turn over to Sirica a personal memorandum he dictated after a meeting with fired counsel John W. Dean III on April 15.

Watergate special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski said yesterday that his assistants and White House lawyers had discussed the release of the contents of the tapes, but Jaworski declined to comment on the outcome of the discussions.

Reached at his home in Houston, Jaworski said, "Whatever was said, or done or agreed upon, Judge Sirica will have to discuss or comment on. It is under his jurisdiction."