

# No Disclosure In Other Cases

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The White House refused yesterday to extend its new strategy of public disclosure on Watergate to other issues on which President Nixon faces possible impeachment charges.

"... The name of this problem we are facing is called Watergate," said White House Counsel James D. St. Clair at a press briefing.

When St. Clair was asked soon afterward whether he was saying that the House Judiciary Committee should "forget about milk and ITT," he answered:

"Based on what I know about it, the answer is yes. The President has published a white paper, so-called, on each of these."

St. Clair was referring to two documents issued Jan. 8 by the White House at San Clemente. They gave the President's side of the story in two controversial 1971 decisions that increased the price of federal milk supports and settled a pending antitrust case against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Soon after St. Clair's briefing, White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren reiterated that the President had no intention of following up his release of Watergate-related conversations with similar transcripts of his conversations on these issues.

But one of the senior Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Don Edwards of California, said that the committee should make public any information it already has on other issues since the President "has abandoned the principle of confidentiality."

The White House has turned over a variety of materials to the committee on non-Watergate issues that have never been made public.

However, the committee See PRESIDENT, A17, Col. 7

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itself has been unable to obtain 11 of the 42 Watergate-related conversations it originally subpoenaed. The White House said that recordings were never made of nine of these conversations and that two others are missing.

Despite these gaps in the record, both St. Clair and Warren insisted yesterday that the President had made available the full story of his Watergate role.

St. Clair said the transcript showed that the President never approved \$75,000 in hush money for Watergate defendants and that he instructed deposed White House Counsel John W. Dean III to tell the truth to the grand jury.

But when St. Clair was asked about the propriety of the President "discussing for hours blackmail in the White House," he replied:

"I am sure if he had to do it over again, he wouldn't."

At his subsequent briefing, Warren repeatedly urged reporters to look at "the totality" of the transcripts and not make their judgments on individual passages. Warren said he had not had time himself to read the transcripts but planned to do so.

It was clear from the public and private positions taken yesterday by White House officials that the President is now convinced that he has furnished sufficient information to the Judiciary Committee for it to make its judgment.

While there is no illusion at the White House that the edited transcripts will completely satisfy the committee, there is a persistent be-

lief that the release will be sufficient for the President to persuade the public that he was not involved in the cover-up.

It was also clear that the decision to go this far and no farther was made by Mr. Nixon himself.

"St. Clair did not decide this," St. Clair said in discussing the release of the edited transcripts, "the President decided this. The President is the only person who has the authority to make this decision."

Warren described the President as pleased by the public response to his decision. The White House attempted to capitalize on this response by inviting photographers in for a picture of the President with 11 persons who have rounded up support for Mr. Nixon in various sections of the country.

Yesterday afternoon, after an unusually light day, the President left by helicopter to spend the night at his Camp David retreat.

From the moment of his decision to release the transcripts, Mr. Nixon has been concerned with the possible public response to the "blemishes" they reveal. St. Clair addressed himself to this concern yesterday at his briefing in the Executive Office Building, when he was asked whether the transcripts do not revive the allegations of "Tricky Dick" Nixon.

St. Clair responded that the decision to release the transcripts was "a tough call" but one that the President felt necessary because "people were beginning to think far worse things than were in fact so."

"And there they are, the good and the bad of it," St. Clair said.



Presidential lawyer James D. St. Clair briefs newsmen on Mr. Nixon's reasoning in refusing to honor subpoena for tapes and other material.

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