

Sen. Brooke Calls Tapes Release An "Obvious Play To The Public"

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass. Sunday described President Nixon's turning over of edited transcripts of White House conversations as an "obvious play to the public."

Brooke, the only black in the U. S. Senate, predicted at a news conference that the President's strategy would fail.

Brooke said Nixon is not in compliance with subpoenas issued by the House Judiciary Committee, and that, in itself, could prejudice his case if he is

tried by the Senate.

"Nothing short of full disclosure and full compliance with the subpoena will suffice," said Brooke, a former Attorney General of Massachusetts.

He said the best evidence in the case is the tapes themselves, and if the Senate doesn't get them it could hurt the President's chances in a Senate trial.

It would be particularly bad, Brooke said, if evidence indicates the tapes have been tampered with.

Brooke said "If evidence was destroyed by the President or someone acting at the direction of the President or with the knowledge of the President," then his case would be prejudiced.

Committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N. J., has al-

ready said that the transcripts are not an accurate account of what is contained on the tapes now in the committee's hands.

In any event, Brooke said, failure to comply with a subpoena could be grounds for impeachment.

Brooke, the first Republican member of the Senate to call for the President's resignation, said Nixon's latest effort to take his case to the public will not work.

Brooke said Vice President Gerald R. Ford is the leading contender for the Republican nomination for president in 1976.

Ford's chances would be greatly enhanced if he assumed the presidency prior to the end of Nixon's term, he said.

Brooke said despite Ford's protestations to the contrary, "he is acting every bit as a candidate."