

Burch Ducks Question on Court Order

Post 11/17/74
Dean Burch, President Nixon's White House political adviser, sidestepped as "hypothetical" questions yesterday as to whether the President will abide by a definitive order of the Supreme Court on release of White House tapes.

Burch made the response on the White House lawn to questions triggered by the Supreme Court's ruling yesterday to hear the dispute between Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski and Mr. Nixon over the President's claim of executive privilege to withhold White House tapes.

Asked how he would advise the President on the politics of defying a Supreme Court decision, Burch said only that if "that occurrence should arise," he would give his advice.

Burch and Gerald L. Warren, White House deputy press secretary, both said the White House would file its position with the court "at the appropriate time."

Burch devoted most of his time to criticism of the House Judiciary Committee for refusing to open its hearings now or to call witnesses now on the Watergate phase of its staff inquiry, as urged by the White House.

He said he could not imagine that "the American peo-