

# Goldwater: Nixon's Decision *F Post 7-25-74* Should Be Reassuring To

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Barry Goldwater, who had warned that presidential defiance of the Supreme Court might increase the chances of impeachment, said Wednesday night President Nixon's decision to comply "should be reassuring to people."

But the Arizona Republican declined to speculate on whether the President's compliance would stem impeachment sentiment in Congress. "There's no way of knowing," he told a reporter.

"I think the fact that he has decided to comply means he believes that no man can be above the law and that fact should be reassuring to people," Goldwater said.

Vice President Gerald R. Ford said President Nixon "has demonstrated his respect for the law" in his compliance and noted "I had repeatedly urged that the President abide by the Supreme Court decision."

Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott said: "I'm glad that the President has complied with the Supreme Court, a judgment that I long have been advocating."

Rep. Ogden R. Reid, D-N.Y., called for speedy presidential compliance, declaring: "I am very disturbed by the very clear implication in Mr. St. Clair's statement that this may take an inordinate length of time."

Reid added that the decision should "in no case" delay the impeachment proceedings of the House Judiciary Committee.

Nixon's decision to comply with the historic court ruling came after a chorus of Democrats and Republicans in Congress had warned Nixon would

face certain impeachment unless he complied.

Democrats and many Republicans said the House Judiciary Committee should not delay its debate and vote on proposed articles of impeachment, however, in hopes of getting the tapes.

The court order applied to tapes sought for the Watergate cover-up trial, but the committee also has subpoenaed most of the same tapes.

"If the President would defy the court the way he has defied the committee, I don't see how we could avoid articles of impeachment," said Rep. Robert McClory, R-Ill., second-ranked GOP member on the Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., who headed the Senate Watergate investigation, called the ruling "one of the most healthy decisions it has ever made in the entire history of the nation." He said he assumed the President would obey it.

"If he doesn't comply I would think it would be a very damaging thing for his prospects of remaining in office," said Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho.

"He is in bad shape now and any refusal would put him in worse shape," Sen. Russell Long, D-La., said.

Rep. Earl Landgrebe, R-Ind., called a news conference to reaffirm his support for Nixon. "I don't care what action, the House, the Senate, or the Supreme Court takes against the President. I appreciate what the man has done for us," Landgrebe said.

The Judiciary Committee chairman, Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., opposed any

delay i  
ment i  
tapes. I  
timated  
months  
able tr:  
if they  
diately.