

# Watergate Unit Subpoena Bill Signing Awaited

Box 2/18/73

United Press International

President Nixon had until midnight to sign a bill giving the Senate Watergate committee the power to subpoena his Watergate tapes and documents.

If he does not sign or veto it, the bill becomes law automatically.

During most of its history, the committee had issued subpoenas under a congressional resolution dating back to the 1920s that gives congressional committees such authority.

But U.S. District Court Chief Judge John Sirica dismissed on Oct. 17 the committee's subpoena to get the Nixon tapes on grounds the court lacked jurisdiction.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) committee chairman, introduced such legislation and it passed Congress by voice vote. The 10-day period that Mr. Nixon had to sign the bill expired last night at midnight.

The bill applies only to the Watergate committee. It says District Court "shall have jurisdiction to enter any such judgment or decree in any such civil action as may be necessary or appropriate to enforce obedience to any such subpoena or order."

The bill said the District Court "shall have original jurisdiction, without regard to in sum or value of the matter in controversy, of any civil action heretofore or hereafter brought by the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities . . . to enforce or secure a declaration concerning the validity of any subpoena or order . . . issued by said committee to the President . . . or any other officer . . . of any department or agency . . . to procure the production . . . of any information, documents, taped recordings or other materials relevant to matters the said committee is authorized to investigate."

The Watergate Special Prosecution Force, part of the executive branch, did not have

the problem that the committee faced in regard to the tapes.

Meanwhile, William Dobrovir, attorney for Ralph Nader, filed a document in U.S. District Court to force Mr. Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, to make a deposition in Nader's dairy suit.

Lawyers for Miss Woods are seeking to quash a subpoena that Dobrovir has served. She was scheduled to provide testimony this week.

Nader has filed suit to roll back the 1971 and 1972 dairy price supports on grounds the administration set them at a high figure in return for the industry's 1972 gifts to the Nixon campaign.