

Tape that broke Nixon's

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tape that broke Richard M. Nixon's grip on the presidency leads off the fifth week of testimony at the Watergate coverup trial.

The prosecutors plan to begin playing a series of tapes this week starting with a June 23, 1972, conversation between Nixon and H.R. Haldeman, then White House staff chief.

Nixon released a transcript of the June 23 tape last Aug. 5 and acknowledged it "may further damage my case." Before the week ended he had resigned.

During that June 23 conversation, six days after the Watergate break-in, Nixon approved a suggestion that the Central Intelligence Agency be used to try to get the FBI to limit its investigation.

"They should call the FBI in and (Unintelligible) don't go any further into this case, period," Nixon was quoted on the transcript.

In his statement put out with the transcript, Nixon acknowledged that "I was aware of the advantages this course of action would have with respect to limiting possible public exposure of

grip leads off testimony

involvement by persons connected with the re-election committee."

Release of that transcript was the first public acknowledgement by Nixon that he had a role in the Watergate cover-up long before March 21, 1973, when John W. Dean III, then White House counsel, briefed Nixon on the involvement of White House and re-election committee

personnel in the break-in and cover-up.

Dean testified as the first prosecution witness at the trial.

Haldeman is one of the five defendants charged with conspiring to block the investigation of the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

The other defendants include former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell.

On the June 23 tape, according to the Nixon transcript, Haldeman told the President, "Now, on the investigation, you know, the Democratic break-in thing, we're back in the problem area because the FBI is not under control ... their investigation is now leading into some productive areas."