

New Senate Anger Over Nixon Tapes

Washington

After rejecting the Senate Watergate committee's weekend efforts to avoid a court clash over White House tape recordings, President Nixon relented a little yesterday by permitting H. R. Haldeman to discuss two of them.

But the committee did not consider the move a valid compromise and insisted that it still intends to go into court this week to try to force the President to release the tapes of conversations between Mr. Nixon and key aides about the scandal.

"It's strange that Mr. Haldeman can hear the tapes but the committee cannot hear them," Senator

Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem.-N.C.), the committee chairman, said.

HOME

Noting that Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, said he had listened to one tape at his home after resigning April 30, Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Dem.-Hawaii) a committee member, remarked:

"I would think that if a private citizen of the United States can get permission to listen to the tapes in private, at home, the Senate Select Committee should be able to hear them."

Inouye added after the session that it was "most distressing to learn they've been out of the custody of the Secret Service." He said he had heard that tapes can be doctored to alter their meaning.

Asked if he thought Mr. Nixon may have waived his claim to executive privilege by allowing Haldeman to hear the two tapes, Inouye replied, "I would think he has waived it in the eyes of the American people."

The committee's chief counsel, Sam Dash, told re-

porters Haldeman's testimony on the tapes might help the committee's case in court.

PROPOSAL

On Sunday Ervin and Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. (Rep.-Tenn.), committee vice chairman, proposed during a television interview that they and special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox be permitted to inspect the tapes privately.

They made the offer as a compromise to avoid an unprecedented constitutional battle over the committee's authority to subpoena the President for release of five tapes and numerous documents.

The committee is expected to file a motion in U.S. District Court seeking a declaratory judgment that the President should obey its subpoena. Last week Cox obtained a district court order demanding that Mr. Nixon show cause why he should not release nine tapes that Cox had subpoenaed.

The "show cause" hearing has been set for August 7.

REFUSE

Yesterday the White House said the President was still refusing to release tapes — either publicly as the subpoenas demanded or privately as Ervin and Baker requested.

"The President has made his position clear in this matter," deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said a few hours before Haldeman began his testimony before the committee.

"I have nothing to add to

what has been said," Warren declared. "The President has stated his position."

HARSH

In another development, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III (Dem.-Ill.), in a remarkably harsh speech on the Senate floor, said the President "has breached his contract with the Senate" by refusing to give Cox the tapes.

Stevenson charged that Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson had assured the Senate Judiciary Committee in May during his confirmation hearing that Cox would have "full authority" to review all documentary evidence "to which he shall have full access."

"I am sickened by the President's disdain for the orderly processes of law," Stevenson continued. "He does not seem to care about his own solemn assurances. They are made one day and are 'inoperative' the next.

"The President has now cut himself off from the peo-

ple. He does not answer their questions. He has cut himself off from the Congress. He spurns requests for plainly relevant evidence. And finally he has cut himself off from the special prosecutor and his own attorney general.

In response, Richardson

issued a statement pointing out that during his confirmation hearing he had "made clear that some documents might be kept away from the special prosecutor on the ground of executive privilege or some other privilege."

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