

## Proof for Impeachment Lacking

# Talmadge View on Nixon

### Washington

A Democratic member of the Senate Watergate committee said yesterday there is no evidence that would now justify impeaching President Nixon and the public would not support such a move.

But Senator Herman E. Talmadge (Dem-Ga.), said a heavy cloud of doubt and suspicion will be removed from the White House only when the President releases tape recordings of relevant presidential conversations and submits himself to examination.

"I don't think the tape issue ever will be laid to rest until they are made public," Talmadge said. "I think the President is making a great mistake in not making the tapes available to the committee and to the public."

### COURT

The Watergate committee has subpoenaed those tapes and will go to court this week in an attempt to compel the President to produce them.

Talmadge was interviewed on the CBS television news program, "Face the Nation."

The committee begins today what is expected to be

the final week of testimony on the break-in of Democratic headquarters in the Watergate on June 17, 1972.

Talmadge said he expects the hearings to conclude on Wednesday or Thursday. The committee has then scheduled a three-week recess.

The committee will file a report on the first phase of the hearings but Talmadge said that eventually the question of who has been lying and who has been telling the truth will be settled by the American people.

### TAPES

Talmadge said that if the tapes show what the President and H. R. Haldeman, his former chief of staff, say they show, "they will take away the cloud of doubt from the White House immediately."

"There's very little reason for the committee to continue on the Watergate aspect of the investigation if that's true," he said.

The President has said that the tapes substantiate his innocence but could be misinterpreted.

Talmadge said, "but I think that this committee of seven senators are fair-minded men and I think that if there were any area of doubt they would resolve it

in favor of the President of the United States."

### DEAN

Without the evidence of the tapes, Talmadge said it remains difficult to discount entirely John W. Dean's testimony that the President was aware of the cover-up as early as September 15, 1972.

"You know, Mr. Dean wrote a 245 page statement, it took him six hours to read it, and he then submitted to vigorous cross-examination for four consecutive days . . . and there was no great contradiction of any of that testimony in four days time," Talmadge said.

"He was a remarkable witness," Talmadge said of Dean. "He was either the greatest liar since Ananias

or else there was some element of truth in what he says."

### 'PREMATURE'

A resolution of impeachment against Mr. Nixon was introduced in the House last week by Representative Robert F. Drinan (Dem-Mass.), a move Talmadge called "premature."

"There's no evidence to date, competent evidence, to support it and public opinion won't support it," Talmadge said.

Talmadge made this suggestion: "I think the President needs to go before the American public in some manner that's suitable for him, either before our committee or a press meeting, where he can report his side of this situation and submit himself to examination . . ."

"I think if the President . . . said, 'Gentlemen, I want you to come over here and visit with me, and then made those tapes available so we could hear them, and the tapes supported the President of the United States, I think the evidence of Mr. Dean would then be quashed.'" *Associated Press*