

Judge Sirica's Order

This matter having come before the court on motion of the Watergate special prosecutor made on behalf of the June, 1972, grand jury of this district for an order to show cause, and the court being advised in the premises, it is by the court this 29th of August, 1973, for the reasons stated in the attached opinion,

Ordered that respondent, President Richard M. Nixon, or any subordinate officer, official or employe with custody or control of the documents or objects listed in the grand jury subpoena duces tecum of July 23, 1973, served on respondent in this district, is hereby commanded to produce forthwith for the court's examination in camera, the subpoenaed documents or objects which have not heretofore been produced to the grand jury; and it is

Further ordered that the ruling herein be stayed for a period of five days in which time respondent may perfect an appeal from the ruling; and it is

Further ordered that should respondent appeal from the ruling herein, the above stay will be extended indefinitely pending the completion of such appeal or appeals.

JOHN J. SIRICA
CHIEF JUDGE

White House Reply

As Mr. Wright pointed out in his oral argument before the court, in camera inspection of these tapes is inconsistent with the President's position relating to the question of separation of powers as provided by the Constitution and the necessity of maintaining the precedent of confidentiality of private Presidential conversations for this President and for Presidents in the future.

The President consequently will not comply with this order.

White House counsel are now considering the possibility of obtaining appellate review or how otherwise to sustain the President's position.