

Mail Foulup

Nixon Subpoena Gets to Court

Washington

A subpoena commanding President Nixon's appearance in a Los Angeles court finally got to the right place — the clerk of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Congress' Lowest Rating

New York

A Harris survey has given Congress the lowest marks for performance in more than ten years of polling about the federal legislative branch.

The survey reported Monday that 69 per cent of those asked, "How do you rate the job Congress is doing?" said fair or poor.

Twentynine per cent said good or excellent, and 10 per cent were not sure.

On individual topics, Congress received an 88 per cent negative rating on controlling inflation, 83 per cent negative rating on keeping spending under control, and 82 per cent negative on inspiring confidence in government.

Faring better was William E. Simon, the man in charge of the nation's energy policy. He received a 35 per cent negative rating and a 26 per cent positive rating with 29 per cent not sure how to rate his performance.

Associated Press

It took eight days to get there.

The subpoena was mailed February 4 by the clerk for Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gordon Ringer to the superior court here. It apparently arrived Monday, but clerk Joseph Burton didn't get it until yesterday noon.

The National Postal Service, which says that normally such letters take three days or so, is trying to find out why it took so long.

Burton is wondering why there was an in-house delay. The receipt for the certified letter apparently got back to Los Angeles just about the time Burton got the letter.

Burton immediately forwarded the request to U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert for action.

"In all procedures they are the ones who will present it in court," Burton said.

The superior court, the equivalent of a state court, must act on all such out-of-state requests.

The document asks Mr. Nixon to testify at a hearing February 25 and at the trial of John D. Ehrlichman and two other former White House aides, G. Gordon Liddy and David Young on April 15. The three men are charged with burglary and conspiracy in the break-in of the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, the psychiatrist who had treated Pentagon Papers figure Daniel Ellsberg.

The White House said Mr. Nixon will refuse to testify, but the possibility of an affidavit was left open.

Associated Press