

42 Additional Nixon Tapes Sought for House Inquiry

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By PHILIP SHABECOFF

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WASHINGTON, March 11—The House Judiciary Committee has asked the White House to supply, in addition to materials already given to the special Watergate prosecutor, 42 tape recordings of conversations between President Nixon and some of his key former aides.

The requests were contained in a letter from John Doar, special counsel to the Judiciary Committee, to James St. Clair, special counsel to the President, on Feb. 25. A portion of the letter containing the list of tape requests was made available today by a White House official.

In the following other Watergate-related matters:

¶Sources close to Charles W. Colson and John D. Ehrlichman said today that Secretary of State Kissinger would be subpoenaed to testify for them at their trials on charges involving the Ellsberg break-in case. [Details on Page 23.]

¶A spokesman for the office of the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, had advised Federal grand jury investigating the Watergate break-in and cover-up that it would not be "responsible conduct" to indict President Nixon. [Details on Page 24.]

¶The Los Angeles County District Attorney agreed to seek dismissal of conspiracy and burglary charges against Mr. Ehrlichman and two other former White House aides in the Ellsberg break-in case. In an

Continued on Page 23, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

agreement with the special Watergate prosecutor, the state yielded priority to Federal charges. [Details on Page 23.]

The White House official, in disclosing the Doar letter, said it was important to correct a general misapprehension that the committee had asked for only six additional tapes. In fact, he said, the committee is seeking a total of 42 tape recordings covering six different subject areas.

No Specific Refusal

In a letter replying to Mr. Doar, Mr. St. Clair said that President Nixon believes that the materials turned over to the special prosecutor, which include 19 tapes and 700 documents, were sufficient for the committee's work. However, he did not specifically refuse the additional tapes.

The White House official also asserted that Mr. Doar's letter had showed that the committee wanted "carte blanche" to rummage through every nook and cranny in the White House on a fishing expedition.

He referred specifically to a passage in the letter asking that a way be worked out so that members of the committee staff might examine files of four former White House aides — H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, Charles W. Colson and John W. Dean 3d—"for the purpose of selecting materials which, in our opinion, are necessary for the purpose of selecting materials which, in our opinion, are necessary for the investigation."

The additional tapes requested in Mr. Doar's letter included the following:

¶Conversations between the President and Mr. Haldeman on or about Feb. 20, 1973, concerning the possible appointment of Jeb Stuart Magruder to a Government post. Mr. Nixon and Mr. Haldeman had reportedly discussed a senior position at the Commerce Department for Mr. Magruder and the tapes could show if there had been any discussion of Mr. Magruder's role in the cover-up of the Watergate break-in that might

be discovered as a result of the appointment.

¶Conversations between the President, Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman on or about Feb. 27, 1973, relating to the assignment of John W. Dean 3d to work directly with the President on Watergate and Watergate-related matters. Mr. Dean testified at the Senate Watergate hearings that the President had told him on Feb. 27 that Watergate was taking too much of the time of Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman. Mr. Dean also testified that the President had told him that Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman "were principals in the matter and I, therefore, could be more objective than they."

¶Conversations between the President and Mr. Dean on March 17, 1973, from 1:25 to 2:10 P.M. and March 20, 1973, from 7:29 to 7:43 P.M. Mr. Dean told the Senate Committee that on March 17, Mr. Nixon referred to the confirmation hearings of L. Patrick Gray 3d and of the President's willingness to battle the Senate in court to enforce his position on executive privilege. Mr. Dean testified that Mr. Nixon had "opined that he did not think the Senate would be dumb enough to go for the bait he had given them, but he was hopeful that they might."

The March 20 conversation apparently was Mr. Nixon's call to Mr. Dean during which, Mr. Dean said, he told the President he had to talk to him "because I did not think that he fully realized all the facts and implications of those facts for people at the White House as well as himself." The following day, March 21, Mr. Dean met with Mr. Nixon and said he had told him that Watergate was "a cancer on the Presidency."

Conversations between the President and Mr. Ehrlichman on March 27, 1973, from 11:10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., and on March 30, 1973, from 12:02 to 12:18 P.M. Mr. Nixon has said that after the March 21 meeting with Mr. Dan, he directed Mr. Ehrlichman to conduct a White House investigation. Mr. Ehrlichman has testified he was told on March 30 to carry out an inquiry but not a formal investigation.