

A Report

Nixon Will Yield Tapes

Washington

President Nixon is reported to be ready to surrender additional White House tapes to a house committee in the wake of a warning by Senate Republican leaders that defiance would result in his impeachment.

Congressional sources said yesterday that Mr. Nixon, who had refused to yield further Watergate evidence, is expected to turn over tapes of 42 White House conversations to the House Judiciary Committee next week.

The decision to cooperate follows a warning delivered last Tuesday to James D. St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's chief Watergate counsel, at a meeting in the office of Senate Minority leader Hugh Scott.

Present besides St. Clair and Scott were White House aide Dean Burch; Senate Minority Whip Robert P. Griffin (Rep-Mich.); Senator Wallace F. Bennett (Rep-Utah), Secretary of the Senate Republican Conference, and Senator William E. Brock (Rep-Tenn.), chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee.

In an interview yesterday, Scott said he told St. Clair the President "would be impeached in the House" if he defied the House committee.

Scott said he emphasized that the White House should continue negotiating with the House panel until an

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agreement is reached on the committee's request for additional tapes and documents.

"I gave a clear message," Scott said. "Speaking for many Republicans in the Senate, in what is a common view, I said the White House should avoid a confrontation. They assured me they are doing that and I see evidence of it."

Other sources said the

White House has indicated a willingness to comply with the committee's request next week.

In turn, committee leaders are reported ready to yield at least partly to two White House demands — narrow the scope of the inquiry and permit the President's attorneys to participate in the committee's proceedings.

It was learned that committee lawyers are prepared to recommend dropping a number of allegations from the list of 53 charges that have been under study as possible impeachable offenses.

Among those to be eliminated are charges dealing with the secret bombing of Cambodia, presidential impoundment of appropriated funds and the dismantling of the poverty program. Mr. Nixon's federal income problems also may be dropped unless another congressional committee now studying them comes up with a finding of fraud.

This would leave the impeachment inquiry's focus mainly on the Watergate coverup, the operations of the White House plumbers group, campaign "dirty tricks" and alleged political favors in exchange for secret campaign contributions.

In addition to insisting that the inquiry be tightened, St. Clair demanded that he be allowed, to cross-examine committee witnesses and to call witnesses of his own.

Committee Democrats opposed this on the ground that the House inquiry is akin to a grand jury proceeding in which defense lawyers are not permitted to participate. The proper place for defense presentation, the Democrats have argued, is after the House votes impeachment and the Senate tries the case.

But to counter Republican accusations that the President is being denied fair treatment, key Democrats are said to be willing to bow to most of St. Clair's requests.

Sources also said that the committee may be able to vote on an impeachment resolution by the end of May if it receives the additional

tapes and documents next week, along with a secret grand jury report the courts have ordered be turned over to it.

The staff is expected to begin presenting evidence to the committee — possibly at televised hearings — soon after Easter.

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