

NY Times APR 1 1974
**House Republicans Warn
 Of Subpoena Over Tapes**

By BILL KOVACH
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 10—Republican members sent word to the White House today that the House Judiciary Committee was virtually certain to subpoena material requested in February unless some concession was made before tomorrow.

The House Republican leader, John J. Rhodes of Arizona, communicated that feeling to the White House late this afternoon after discussing the matter with Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

"I understand," Mr. Rhodes said, "there will be a motion made to subpoena certain material tomorrow."

The move toward confrontation came as Democrats and Republicans on the committee caucused separately to discuss the White House suggestion last night that they wait until April 22 to receive tape recordings and other documents requested Feb. 25.

The President's special counsel for Watergate matters, James D. St. Clair, seemed to shut the door late today to any White House retreat from its position. In a telephone interview, Mr. St. Clair said he had no reason to believe the White House would make any change in its position by tomorrow.

"I can't understand why there is such great concern," Mr. St. Clair said of the committee's reaction. "The committee's request had no specifics until April 4 and it takes time to define, review, listen and transcribe the material."

Blame Is Assessed

Congressional concern, however, was made clear, especially by Republicans, who had been led to believe the White House response would be satisfactory to the committee and would avoid a confrontation.

"I am not satisfied with the response," Mr. Hutchinson told reporters. "I think it was offensive to the House, I'm sorry to say."

Any blame for a delay in the impeachment proceedings, he said, will have to be placed at the door of the White House.

"It might settle down into a

Continued on Page 26, Column 3

**House Republicans Warn Nixon
 Of Subpoena Bid Today on Tapes**

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

long summer and fall," he added. "I don't think that we've been foot-dragging at all."

Democrats, emerging from their own caucus, were content to let the Republicans make the point of the committee's concern.

Peter W. Rodino Jr., New Jersey Democrat who is the Judiciary Committee chairman, told newsmen only that he had scheduled a meeting for 10:30 tomorrow morning. He declined further comment. Republicans said the sole business of that meeting would be consideration of a Congressional subpoena.

What incensed committee members was the White House letter yesterday, in which Mr. St. Clair said that a review of the committee's request was under way and that additional material would be furnished—without specifying what or how much—after the Easter recess, which begins Friday and ends April 22.

Republican members who expressed the most anger said that the White House should either immediately produce some of the material requested or clearly state how and when the decision will be made on what material it will eventually furnish voluntarily.

"Everyone wants to avoid a confrontation so we're trying to work something out," said Representative Tom Railsback, Republican of Illinois. "We don't want to be unreasonable but this response is unacceptable," he added.

A number of Democrats have been urging a subpoena of the White House material for some time and some of them seemed pleased that Republicans had now joined their demand.

Representative Jerome R. Waldie, California Democrat, said, "It is about time the idea that the White House will cooperate is dispelled."

A source familiar with the Democrats' caucus this morning said they will be "content to let the Republicans make the point that the time has come for a subpoena."

Representative John Conyers Jr., Michigan Democrat, was more explicit about his own intentions:

"The only thing left to do is

of the United States. [We] have waited since Feb. 25. We have walked the last mile."

The chief problem that even advocates of a subpoena see is the matter of enforcement. Should a subpoena be issued and then ignored by the White House, most agree the only resort would be to include the matter as an article of impeachment.

The other principal alternative would be a long court fight to enforce the subpoena—a course nearly no one on the committee wishes to follow.

Some persons are concerned that the White House has been hoping for such a confrontation to force the issue of impeachment and to limit it to the relatively narrow ground of Presidential resistance to a Congressional subpoena.

The key material sought in the current impasse between the White House and Congress are tapes of Presidential conversations in February, March and April, 1972. The tapes both precede and follow March 21, the date on which President Nixon insists he first learned of the Watergate cover-up. The committee believes these tapes will either support or bring into question that insistence and clarify the allegations of Presidential involvement in obstruction of justice.

Since the material was originally requested on Feb. 25 the White House has delayed furnishing it because lawyers there contended that the request was ambiguous and unclear.

Both sides agreed, however,



The New York Times
 James D. St. Clair

that a more specific request on April 4 had clarified the request. It was to that amended request that the White House responded yesterday.

Counsel's View Called Key

WASHINGTON, April 10 (UPI) — A Presidential aide said today that President Nixon was prepared to submit all the material his attorney deems relevant.

Dean Burch, newly appointed Presidential counselor, told reporters on the President's flight back from a Michigan campaign swing that the President was prepared to give the committee such material on April 22.

Mr. Burch said that Mr. St. Clair would decide which of the tapes and documents were considered relevant to the committee's impeachment investigation.