

NYTimes
NIXON OFFERS PARTIAL TAPE TRANSCRIPTS
TO HOUSE INVESTIGATION PANEL AND PUBLIC

REPORT TO NATION

President Will Allow
2 on Unit to Listen
to the Originals

By JOHN HERBERS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 29—President Nixon said tonight that he would turn over to the House Judiciary Committee and make public partial transcripts of subpoenaed Watergate tape recordings and would permit two members of the committee to listen to the tapes to certify the authenticity of the transcripts.

Appearing on national television to explain his latest position in the Watergate case and the impeachment inquiry that the committee is conducting, Mr. Nixon said all conversations relevant to the investigation would be included in the transcripts.

To satisfy the committee that no pertinent evidence had been omitted from the transcripts, he said he would invite Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., the chairman, and Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan to check the transcripts against all of the tapes that the White House has that are covered under the committee's subpoena of April 11.

Sees Exoneration

Mr. Nixon said the tapes and other evidence before the committee would exonerate him in the Watergate cover-up and show that John W. Dean 3d, his former counsel, who has testified that the President was involved in the cover-up, was not a credible witness.

The President's response tonight came after a month of sparring and maneuvering between the White House on one side and the House Judiciary Committee and the Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski on the other for tapes and documents in the Watergate and other cases.

In late February, the House committee privately requested a body of material that the White House identified as the tape recordings of some 42 conversations between Mr. Nixon and the various aides between Feb. 20 and April 18, 1973, a period when the White House role in the cover-up of

the burglary of Democratic headquarters on June 17, 1972, was being disclosed publicly and prosecutors were moving against several of the President's assistants.

The President's lawyers and aides complained bitterly about the request, charging that the committee staff was on a "fishing expedition" into the White House files and should not ask for the material before it had further evaluated evidence previously supplied to the committee.

On April 4, John M. Doar, chief counsel to the committee, sent a letter to the White House

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lawyers saying in more specific terms what it wanted. On April 11, the committee grew tired of waiting and subpoenaed the material.

At that time, Mr. Nixon's spokesmen indicated that the President would respond, not by supplying the material as the subpoena identified it, but under his own terms. Ronald L. Ziegler, his press secretary, said the reply, which would be ready by April 25, the deadline set in the subpoena, would satisfy the House and also preserve Mr. Nixon's constitutional responsibilities to maintain the independence and confidentiality of the Presidency.

On April 23, however, James D. St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's special counsel on Watergate matters, asked for a five-day delay because he was having trouble getting the material together and the President "has not had a chance to review it." The committee granted the request.

Whatever the reason for the delay, Mr. Nixon was believed to be in a much stronger position tonight for taking his case to the public than he was five days ago. This was because of the acquittal yesterday in New York of the two former Cabinet members, John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans, who had been charged with 15 counts of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury relating to a \$200,000 campaign contribution.

One of the accusers of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stans was Mr. Dean, who has also been President Nixon's chief accuser and was involved in the cover-up in the Watergate case. The President and his aides were said to be jubilant over the acquittal feeling that it gave Mr. Nixon a substantially better chance of repudiating the Dean testimony that the President

In addition to the House

committee subpoena, the President was under subpoena from Mr. Jaworski, one that neither Mr. Nixon nor his associates had discussed publicly before tonight.

That document was served on the President's lawyers on April 18. It called for the President to turn over tape recordings and other documents relating to 64 conversations involving Mr. Nixon and four of his former top aides—Charles W. Colson, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and Mr. Dean.

The Judiciary Committee, further, has served notice that it will seek more tapes and documents from the White House not covered under the subpoena. Although the committee has not disclosed the extent of the additional material it desires, committee sources have said the tapes and documents involve three areas of its impeachment inquiry—the Watergate cover-up, the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation antitrust case and campaign contributions by the milk producers.

TV Report a Year Ago

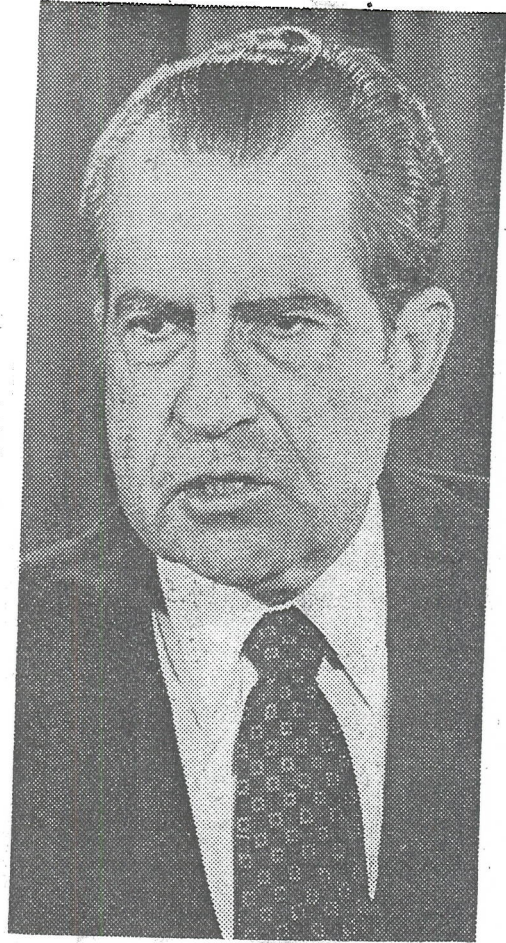
It was one year ago tomorrow night that President Nixon went on national television to report that the Watergate cover-up had come to his attention and that although he was personally innocent he accepted the responsibility.

He announced then that he had accepted the resignations of Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman—"Two of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know"—and of Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and Mr. Dean.

He announced that he had appointed Elliot L. Richardson, "a man of unimpeachable integrity and rigorously high principle," as Attorney General and had given him "absolute authority" to make all decisions in the Watergate case. Mr. Richardson resigned last Oct. 23 because he would not carry out the President's orders to dismiss the then special prosecutor, Archibald Cox.

In his speech of a year ago, Mr. Nixon concluded by saying that he had "exactly 1,361 days remaining in my term" and "I want these to be the best days in America's history."

After the speech he went to the White House press room and told reporters, "I hope you will give me hell every time you think I'm wrong. I hope I am worthy of your trust."



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