

Compromise on Tapes Hinted

Washington

Vice President Gerald Ford and White House officials indicated yesterday that compromise is possible with the House Judiciary Committee on access to presidential Watergate tapes by committee counsel and staff experts.

For the record, deputy presidential press secretary Gerald Warren said there was "no change in the position" that President Nixon outlined in his Monday speech. Mr. Nixon offered to let the top two committee members, but not committee lawyers, verify the accuracy of the tape transcripts provided by the White House.

Warren also said President Nixon will reject the conclusion of House impeachment investigators that his 1200-page transcript did not fulfill their subpoena for 42 Watergate tapes.

Warren said Mr. Nixon contends that the large volume of White House-edited transcripts, which were released to the public Tuesday, tells "the full story of Watergate."
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Warren echoed previous White House statements that neither the judiciary committee nor Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski need any more material from the President's confidential files.

The Judiciary Committee said access by its lawyers is necessary because they are most knowledgeable on the case. Chief committee counsel John Doar informed the committee that its experts and listening equipment have found inaccuracies in

the transcripts of tapes already in committee hands, and therefore want access to those tapes still kept in the White House.

Ford said on the NBC-TV "Today Show" that he saw no real problem in finding ways to give the committee more access to the tapes. He suggested that Mr. Nixon's offer might be expanded to include Doar as well as presidential impeachment lawyer James D. St. Clair.

"I think that might be helpful," Ford said.

He said he had not cleared his comments with the White House. Warren noted this disclaimer during his briefing. So did Dean Burch, counselor to the President, in a talk with some reporters. Burch then added:

"The simple logic indicates that compromises — if there be any room for them — could best be worked out not by press conferences and television shows, but by Mr. Doar and Mr. St. Clair, or Mr. Rodino and the Presi-

dent," he said. Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) is chairman of the House committee.

Burch also said Mr. Nixon has offered to meet with Rodino and the ranking Republican committee member, Representative Edward Hutchinson (Rep-Mich.), "if any problems arise" after they have listened to the tapes. "I am not ruling anything in or out" regarding access by committee counsel, Burch added.

Both Burch and Warren indicated that the White House is flexible on allowing committee experts to try to decipher the words and phrases on tapes which the transcripts call "unintelligible." Several of these come at important points in presidential remarks.

"The focus should be on the facts, not the mechanics," Warren said. The transcripts should be read in their entirety, he added, "and one word changed here and there will not tip the balance" in this matter.

Burch said Mr. Nixon's



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DEAN BURCH
 He says end in sight

speech and publication of the

Burch said Mr. Nixon's speech and publication of the transcripts has drawn positive reaction throughout the Republican Party. Burch said he "really believed" that the end of Watergate is in sight now.

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