

Public Radio Sets Marathon Reading of Transcripts

By LES BROWN

National Public Radio, a network of 164 noncommercial stations, has scheduled for this weekend a marathon reading of all the tape transcripts President Nixon has turned over to the House Judiciary Committee and simultaneously made public.

According to a spokesman for N.P.R., "the reading complies with the President's suggestion that the transcripts be read, or heard, in their entirety as the best way to appreciate the true role Mr. Nixon played in White

House discussions about the Watergate affair."

N.P.R., the radio counterpart to the Public Broadcasting Service, based in Washington, operates largely on Federal funds that are channeled through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The spokesman said it was too early to know how many of the stations affiliated with N.P.R. would carry the full broadcast.

Expected to span at least 36 hours, the reading will begin Saturday morning at 8 A.M.

and run until 2 A.M. the following morning; then it will resume at 8 A.M. Sunday and will continue through the day and night until the entire 1,308-page volume is concluded sometime Monday morning.

Tape Planned Here

It will not be carried in that form in New York, however. WNYC-AM, the municipal station, plans to tape the entire reading and play three hours' worth very night for two weeks, starting next Monday. The broadcasts will be carried from 6 to 9 P.M., pre-empting "The Masterworks Hour" for the duration.

WNYC-FM will not carry the reading at all, because another FM station in New York, WBAI, has been presenting its own marathon reading of the transcripts this week. Those read-

ings, by actors and actresses, are still in progress.

WBAI began the transcript marathon on Tuesday night and has since broadcast the text two hours at a time, three times a day. A spokesman said the entire effort was expected to consume a total of 40 hours.

N.P.R. will use members of its broadcast staff in Washington to read much of the dialogue but will also draw on six of its member stations to share the load. At various times the reading will be done by the staff of WUHY, Philadelphia; WOI, Ames, Iowa; WUOM, Ann Arbor, Mich.; KBIA, Columbia, Mo.; WGBH, Boston, and WBFO, Buffalo.

The material will be presented in a straight reading, without excerpting and without discussion, analysis or editorial comment, the spokesman said.