

# Aides Say Nixon Won't Release Any More Tapes

## St. Clair, Haig Lead Offensive

Washington.

President Nixon's chief Watergate lawyer and his White House chief of staff served notice on nationwide television yesterday that Mr. Nixon has released all the tapes and transcripts he intends to in the Watergate related scandal.

Now is the time for Congress and the American people to make their final assessment of the President's behavior, they both concluded.

This was the joint message issued in separate network appearances by special Watergate counsel James St. Clair and chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr.

The appearances by Haig and St. Clair were part of the administration's stepped-up counteroffensive against the impeachment drive in Congress. Both were scheduled by White House director of communications Ken W. Clawson.

Haig uttered the theme of the White House public opinion blitz with the declaration that "I think the time has come for all of us to ask ourselves a pretty fundamental question: at what point in the review of the wrongdoing does the review itself involve injustices, excess and distortions which . . . result in the cure being worse than the illness itself?"

"The President has now put out for public assessment what we consider to be all the relevant information on the Watergate story," Haig declared on the ABC TV program Issues and Answers.

St. Clair, preceding his White House colleague on NBC's "Meet the Press" show, said the President has given the House Judiciary Committee everything he thinks they need to decide on impeachment. The President hopes, said St. Clair, that the House committee agrees with Mr. Nixon on the sufficiency of evidence.

Formal subpoenas and requests for additional tapes have been submitted to the White House by the Judici-

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ary Committee, the Senate Watergate committee and special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Jaworski wants tapes of 64 conversations for the Watergate cover-up prosecution.

The Judiciary Committee wants tapes of 141 conversations, including those involving the ITT case, donations by milk producers and the circumstances surrounding a \$100,000 contribution by financier Howard Hughes that ended up in the safe of

the President's friend, C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

Even as Haig and St. Clair were speaking two members of the House Judiciary Committee — one a Republican and one a Democrat — also disagreed with the White House position. Representatives Tom Railsback (Rep.-Ill.) and Paul Sarbanes (Dem.-Md.) insisted that the actual tapes of the Watergate conversations should be heard by all 38 members of the House impeachment panel, rather than just the chairman and senior Republican member as Mr. Nixon proposed.

Railsback and Sarbanes, appearing jointly on CBS "Face the Nation" program, also took exception to the White House view against granting immunity to wit-

nesses before the Judiciary Committee. Both suggested it may be necessary to grant immunity to some witnesses to get the full story. (Ranking GOP member Edward Hutchinson (Rep.-Mich.) said Saturday that he would oppose immunity in the impeachment investigation.)

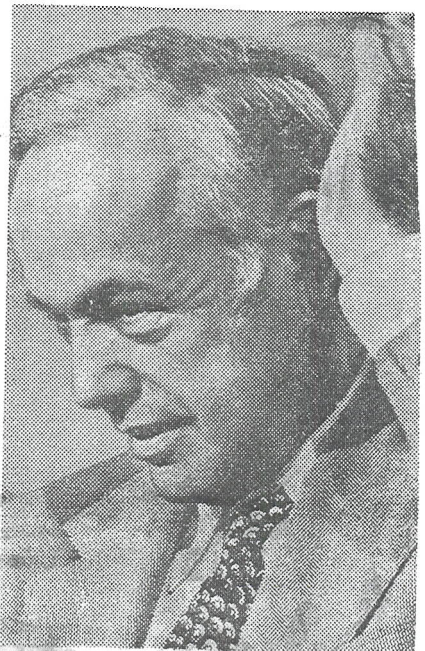
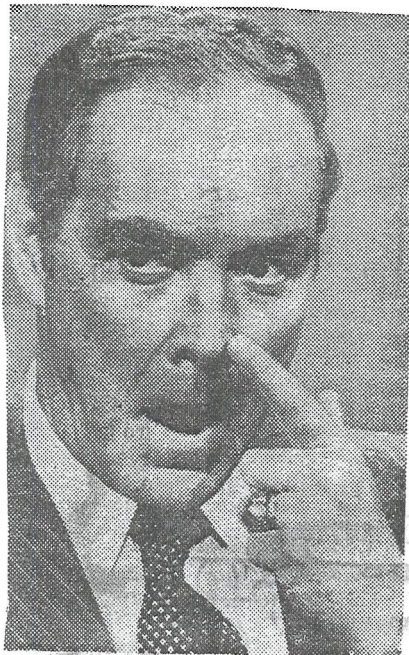
The two also said that the committee's party line vote on the Watergate transcripts should not be interpreted as a sign of a partisan split on the impeachment issue.

After receiving edited transcripts from the White House instead of the actual tape recordings, the committee voted 20 to 18 to inform the President that he had not complied with its subpoena.

"Few if any really thought he was in full compliance," Sarbanes said. "The difference in opinion was in the proper response."

Railsback said the vote reflected a clash on procedures but not on the committee's ultimate goal of reaching the truth in its impeachment inquiry.

St. Clair reiterated the President's claim that the first "allegation of criminality" in connection with Watergate was made by Dean on March 21, 1973. Asked about the disclosure in the edited transcripts that Dean told the President on March 13 that White House aide Gordon C. Strachan had twice lied to prosecutors, St. Clair acknowledged this was an allegation of criminality.



ALEXANDER HAIG  
Haig wondered whether 'cure' might not be 'worse than the illness itself'

JAMES D. ST. CLAIR

UPI Telephoto.

But he added: ". . . It is not the kind of criminality that would have involved the President or the presidency." Strachan, at that time an aide to Mr. Nixon's then-chief of staff, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, has pleaded not guilty to an indictment for perjury.

Speaking of the tapes being demanded by the House Judiciary Committee, as well as other investigative bodies, Haig commented that "I think some of the mythology associated with these tapes would be dispelled quite rapidly if the American people could all hear them.

"The tape itself and the difficulties involved in discerning what has actually been said in a conversation which is totally unstructured . . . it is a discussion that is recorded by a very rudimentary system which was not designed for the kind of tests being put today . . ."

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