

Nixon faces subpena on dairies, ITT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Nixon is facing a new subpena threat from the House Judiciary Committee unless he agrees to turn over tapes and other material relating to the dairy fund and ITT matters.

The White House promised to reply yesterday to the committee's April 19 request for the material, but sent word last night it would respond today. Chairman Peter Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.) has said he will seek a subpena if the evidence is not forthcoming.

Nixon also must reply tomorrow to an earlier committee subpena for 11 Watergate tapes.

Nixon's deepening tape troubles overshadowed today's resumption of the Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings, now zeroing in on the crucial March 1973 stage of the Watergate coverup.

The committee, continuing

in closed session despite White House demands that the hearings be opened, is expected to hear a tape of Nixon's March 21 conversation with his former White House counsel John Dean.

That conversation, during which Nixon and Dean discussed the payment of money to convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt to keep him quiet, is regarded by some members as the key to whether Nixon will be linked to the coverup.

Also important to Nixon's chances of avoiding impeachment, however, is his response to the committee's subpena tomorrow.

"It is going to be difficult for anyone to vote to exonerate him if he doesn't produce what we think is necessary," Rep. Tom Railsback of Illinois, an influential GOP member, told newsmen. "I've been trying to get that message through."

Nixon notified the committee two weeks ago he would not give it any more Watergate material. The committee has requested 76 Watergate tapes — including the 11 it wants by tomorrow — and is expected to issue subpoenas for the others as need arises.