

Warning To Nixon

Boston

Republican Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois said yesterday he will vote to convict President Nixon in any future impeachment trial if "he places himself clearly above the law and the Supreme Court."

"We cannot have a nation of constitutional law if anyone places himself above the Constitution," Percy said at a news conference. "And I feel it only fair to advise the White House of this position because I feel it very deeply and strongly. Because in a sense the President has said the Constitution applies to everyone but the President."

Percy made no specific reference to Mr. Nixon's refusal to turn over more White House tapes of Watergate-related conversations

Release of Evidence Delayed

Washington

Chairman Peter W. Rodino of the House Judiciary Committee decided yesterday to keep the preliminary impeachment evidence secret at least until the hearings are opened to the public in two weeks or more.

White House counselor Dean Burch promptly assailed the decision and said the President is not being treated fairly.

"For three weeks we've had secret proceedings, interrupted by spasmodic leaks," he told an informal press conference on the White House lawn.

"The time is going to come when the committee is going to have to call witnesses."

According to the committee, that time may still be at least two weeks in the future.

^{30 MAY} The committee voted Thursday against opening the hearings until the staff review of evidence for the members is completed in private, and yesterday Rodino dropped consideration of whether to make public the material the committee received during the first eight days.

The committee has maintained that it is holding closed sessions to avoid jeopardizing judicial proceedings against Watergate defendants, but Burch said the interests of the President should prevail.

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to the House Judiciary Committee. But he said, "I think the House power is absolute in the impeachment process."

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