

A Nixon Threat to Fire Shultz Told

Washington

President Nixon threatened to fire then-Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz if he tried to stop the White House from using the Internal Revenue Service for political purposes, according to the Washington

bureau of the Cox newspapers.

The threat, the story said yesterday, came during the last 17 minutes of a 50-minute meeting Sept. 15, 1972, between Mr. Nixon, his former chief of staff H. R. Haldeman and counsel John W. Dean III in the Oval Office.

A transcript of the tape recording of the conversation was obtained by the Cox newspapers from what it called a "government source."

The story said the three were discussing the possibility that Shultz would balk at illegal use of the IRS when Mr. Nixon said:

"... I don't want George Shultz to ever raise the question because it would put me in the position of having to throw him out of the office. He didn't get secretary of the treasury because he has nice blue eyes. It was a goddamn favor to

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him to get that job."

A tape of the conversation is being sought both by the House Judiciary Committee, for evidence in its impeachment inquiry, and Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, who wants it for presentation to a grand jury investigating possible criminality in the White House.

Both have tapes of the first 33 minutes of that conversation but have been unsuccessful in getting Mr. Nixon to surrender the final 17 minutes.

The full 50 minutes of the tape was turned over months ago to Judge John J. Sirica for use in the Watergate grand jury investigation.

He first decided to give

only the first 33 minutes of the tape to the grand jury and the special prosecutor. Later he decided the last 17 minutes was also relevant. The White House challenged that decision and the matter is now pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The transcript shows a President frustrated by failure of the IRS to furnish requested information about his political enemies.

It shows the three persons discussing ways in which the IRS might be "artfully" manipulated before the 1972 election and planning a wholesale ouster of uncooperative officials after the election.

By this time, the President appeared confident of his re-election.

"We have to do it artfully so that we don't create an issue that, we are using the IRS politically. And there are ways to do it, Goddamn it. Sneak in one of our political appointees." Mr. Nixon is quoted as saying.

Then, after the election, more drastic action was planned. "... the whole Goddamn bunch go out and if he (Shultz) doesn't do it he is out as Secretary of the Treasury and that is the way it is going to be played," the President is quoted as saying.

And at another point: "I look forward to the time we that we have the agents in the Department of Justice and the IRS under our control after November 7."

(Shultz told the Washington Post that "nobody ever threatened to fire me." He said that the attempted use of the IRS was blocked, as testimony by former IRS Commissioner Johnnie M. Walters had brought out.)

United Press