

# House Panel Hopes Tape Can Resolve Political Use Of IRS

F Post 6-14-74

WASHINGTON (AP) — House impeachment investigators said Thursday they hope a brief segment of a White House tape can resolve the question of whether President Nixon ordered his staff to make political use of the Internal Revenue Service.

Albert Jenner, minority counsel for the impeachment inquiry, told a closed session of

the House Judiciary Committee that he was trying to arrange for the panel to get a 17-minute portion of the tape of a Sept. 15, 1972, conversation between the President and John W. Dean III.

It was during that segment which comes at the end of the conversation that Nixon and Dean discussed the IRS.

The tape now is in the possession of U.S. District Judge John

J. Sirica who originally upheld a White House claim that the 17-minute portion was unrelated to the Watergate investigation being conducted by a federal grand jury.

But recently special prosecutor Leon Jaworski asked Sirica to reconsider on the grounds the IRS discussion was relevant to current investigations under way in the prosecutor's office. Last week, Sirica ruled that Jaworski could receive the IRS conversation. He gave the White House until Friday to appeal.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Committee heard the evidence its impeachment staff has gathered on administration use of the IRS and one member, Rep. Edward Mezvinsky, D-Iowa, said, "I think the IRS matter is possibly as significant as Watergate."

Among the evidence presented to the panel was an affidavit from former IRS Commissioner Randolph Thrower, a Nixon appointee, who said he threatened to resign because of what he believed were attempts to use the agency for political purposes.

In the affidavit given to the committee staff, Thrower cited what he said was a leak by the White House of tax information regarding Alabama Gov. George Wallace's brother and an attempt to get him to hire John Caulfield, who had served as an undercover agent for the White House.