

Release the Tapes

The release of the Judiciary Committee transcripts of the presidential tapes, and the discrepancies between the House Committee version and the President's version, make it all the more important that the public be given the opportunity to hear and judge for themselves what the President and his advisors said.

Much is lost in a written transcript of a conversation. Rising inflection can change the words, "We'll stonewall it" from an order to a question. As the transcripts are made public, high quality copies of the tapes should be released to the people, and particularly to the communications media, so we can all get the full flavor of the recorded discussions.

This is no ordinary proceeding. To

purge ourselves of the sickness of a Watergate, a broad national consensus must be formed. In this special sense, the impeachment process has its political aspect (although I am not saying that the guilt or innocence, or propriety of behavior of the President and his team are merely a matter of politics—they are not), and the whole nation will be the final judge.

The Judiciary Committee is releasing transcripts slowly and carefully, being mindful of the due process rights of defendants. We must hear those tapes with our own ears. The tapes should be released with the transcripts.

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