

Tape Plan Studied by Nixon Staff

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The White House yesterday withheld comment on the compromise suggested by the U.S. Court of Appeals here to resolve the constitutional crisis over release of presidential tapes to a federal grand jury.

Despite the silence at the White House, some observers believed that the memorandum might become the basis for a compromise settlement that would avoid a further legal battle over the issue of the tapes.

Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox promptly signified his willingness to try to work out a settlement along the lines the court suggested in its memorandum Thursday.

Charles Alan Wright, special counsel to the president, in oral arguments Tuesday urged the court to "suggest what it feels should be done" rather than issue an order to a separate branch of government.

White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said the President's legal advisers were studying the court's proposal and that he would have no comment pending completion of the study.

The court Thursday urged Mr. Nixon to allow Cox to listen to the Watergate tapes with the President and his lawyers and to work out an out-of-court compromise of the dispute over whether the tapes or parts of them should be turned over to the grand jury.

In a separate action yesterday, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a brief in the court arguing that persons whose conversations might have been taped should be allowed to move to suppress the tapes if they are potential witnesses before a grand jury.