

House Unit Sees Progress on

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House Judiciary Committee lawyers reported progress but no agreement yesterday in their five-week effort to obtain tapes of President Nixon's

conversations for their impeachment inquiry.

After a two-hour meeting between the committee's two top lawyers, John Doar and Albert Jenner, and the President's counsel, James D. St.

Clair, Jenner told a group of newsmen:

"We made some progress, the results of which will show up in a couple of days. We see some daylight."

This sounded as though there might have been a

breakthrough and that the committee would be told about it at a briefing session scheduled with Doar and Jenner Thursday. But other committee sources quickly put out word that Jenner had not meant to leave any such im-

Tapes

pression and that no immediate agreement was expected.

The committee's request, involved 41 or 42 presidential conversations, some of which were not taped, all involve the Watergate cover-up. The President's failure to turn them over has been viewed by many as refusal by the target of the inquiry to turn over relevant evidence and in the opinion of Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) has tipped the scales to the point where the House is now ready to impeach Mr. Nixon.

There have been several hints, but no solid evidence, in recent days that the White House is about to turn over the tapes. House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) offered to bet \$10 last week that the tapes would soon be turned over. Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) said in a televised interview yesterday that he was optimistic. Both said they had nothing to go on but hunch or hope.

If the tapes are not provided, Rodino said, the committee will issue a subpoena demanding them. If the subpoena is ignored, the committee will go ahead with what evidence it has and probably will ask the House to cite the President for contempt of Congress. If this occurs, it could become a separate ground for impeachment.

The committee staff is tentatively planning to begin presenting its evidence to the committee about May 1 and extending over a period of about six weeks.