

Response to Subpoena**Nixon Tape Screening**

Miami

The White House is preparing to turn over to the House Judiciary Committee those portions of the subpoenaed tape recordings that the President's lawyers believe would serve as evidence in the committee's impeachment inquiry.

Portions dealing with national security or with matters felt to be irrelevant to the President's conduct apparently will be screened out but identified as such in a statement being prepared for the committee.

This is the information that administration sources have been putting out in the five days since the committee subpoenaed 42 taped conversations between the President and various aides in February, March and April of last year.

If the President and his lawyers stick to this plan, it is not considered likely that the committee would find it acceptable. Both the committee and staff have agreed that it probably is appropriate that some matters not bearing on the President's conduct should be screened out, but they have insisted that the committee have a hand in the screening.

The committee has proposed that the chairman, Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.), the ranking Republican, Edward Hutchinson of Michigan; the majority counsel, John M. Doar,

and Minority counsel, Albert Jenner, meet with White House lawyers to conduct the screening. The committee probably would settle for a smaller representation, according to committee sources.

The White House, however, is going ahead with its own screening process while the committee is in recess for the Easter holidays. When the committee issued the subpoena by a vote of 33 to 3 last Thursday, it set April 25 for the deadline for compliance.

At that time, Ronald Ziegler, President Nixon's press secretary, said the White House would have an answer by about April 25.

"The answer will be comprehensive and conclusive in terms of the President's actions," he said. "We are confident the answer will allow the committee to draw a prompt and just conclusion (to its inquiry), that it will receive the support of the House and bear out the President's statement that he will cooperate consistent with his constitutional responsibilities" to protect the privacy of conversations with his advisers.

Several sources have said since then that not all of the material subpoenaed would be turned over the committee. A United Press International report yesterday quoted one high White House of-

ficial as saying that all of the "hard evidence" would be turned over but some which did not fit that category would be kept in the White House.

All of this is consistent with the current White House theme that while the President wants to cooperate with the investigations he is insistent on blocking any wholesale search of White House records on grounds of executive privilege.

Another aspect of the House committee's subpoena is that some of the tapes sought may not exist. Several crucial conversations on April 15, 1973, between the President and aides were never recorded, according to White House officials, because the tape on the recorder in Mr. Nixon's office in the Executive Office Building ran out in the early afternoon.

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