

NYTimes MAY 17 1974
**Impeachment Panel Hears
Evidence on Hush Money**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 16—Members of the House Judiciary Committee were told in a closed session today the details of how funds from President Nixon's 1972 re-election

campaign were allegedly used to try to obtain the silence of the Watergate burglars.

The committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, confirmed tonight that the fourth day of the impeachment hearings dealt with "payments and alleged promises" to the seven men arrested and convicted for the June 17, 1972, burglary of the Democratic party offices at the Watergate complex.

The chairman said that the hearings would probably con-

tinued yesterday, 37 to 1, to subpoena tapes of 11 more Watergate-related conversations in addition to the 19 tapes the panel obtained earlier this year from a Watergate grand jury.

The panel also agreed yesterday to ask the White House once more today to supply voluntarily recordings of about 66 discussions related to pledges of large political contributions to Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation and dairy industry groups.

John M. Doar, the committee's special counsel on impeachment, said tonight that Mr. St. Clair had promised a definitive reply to the request no later than Monday. Mr. Rodino has said that he will seek another subpoena if the material is not supplied.

Mr. Rodino did agree, however, with a second White House proposal, that all the material presented in closed session be made public at some point. But the chairman said that the decision whether to release the information would not be made before the committee had heard in private all relevant evidence obtained under a pledge of confidentiality.

Committee sources said that the primary focus of the three separate sessions of the committee today—morning, afternoon and night—was on the gathering and distribution of about \$450,000 used in an attempt to maintain the silence of the seven defendants in the original Watergate conspiracy and burglary trial last year.

Trail of Campaign Funds

According to one source, the panel heard evidence describing a trail of "campaign money"—where it came from, where it went, how it got to the defendants.

The sources said, however, that most of the evidence appeared to duplicate testimony given publicly last summer at the Senate Watergate hearing.

Mr. Rodino said that the committee also heard evidence today bearing on "the giving of false statements and the commission of perjury" during the original Watergate investigation, and about "the initial course of conduct followed by the White House in response to the creation" of the Senate Watergate committee in February, 1973.

At the unusual meeting, the

*Text of St. Clair's letter
appears on Page 25.*

tinued in private through next week, despite a strongly worded request from the White House this afternoon that all impeachment proceedings be held in public.

James D. St. Clair, the President's chief counsel, declared in a letter he delivered to Mr. Rodino that leaks of information from the closed hearings were "prejudicing the basic right of the President to an impartial inquiry on the evidence."

He referred, in particular, to

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the publication today of excerpts from a tape-recorded Sept. 15, 1972, Presidential conversation in which Mr. Nixon allegedly threatened to retaliate against The Washington Post for its coverage of the Watergate scandal.

Mr. St. Clair charged in the letter that unidentified members of the committee were describing evidence from the closed hearings "in a distorted and extremely prejudicial manner."

At the President's direction, Mr. St. Clair said, he urged that all committee activities be conducted in public view "so that the American people can be fully informed with regard to all the evidence presented."

Mr. Rodino retorted, at a briefing for reporters before a closed session tonight, that the best way to educate the public fully to the Watergate case would be for the President to turn over the White House tape recordings and other documents that Mr. Nixon has refused to yield.

**Response Is Promised
The Judiciary Committee**



Associated Press

James D. St. Clair, the President's Watergate lawyer, telling reporters he would ask for open impeachment hearings.

committee listened to the tape recording of a Feb. 28, 1973, conversation between the President and John W. Dean 3d, then the White House legal counsel.

An edited transcript of that discussion made public by the White House included the apparent development of a strategy for preventing the Watergate committee from delving deeply into the role played by Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's personal attorney, in raising and distributing the alleged hush money.

At one point in the edited

transcript, Mr. Dean said of Mr. Kalmbach:

"Local [Los Angeles television] stations have been making him more of a personality and his partners have been nipping at him, but Herb is tough now. HE is ready and he is going to go through. He is hunkered down and he is ready to handle it, so I am not worried about Herb at all."

Mr. Nixon then discussed the likelihood that investigators would want to determine how funds had been channeled to the Watergate defendants through a bank in Mexico.

Some committee members said they were prepared to compare the taped conversation with the White House tran-

script to see if any significant discrepancies existed.

A similar comparison by some Congressional sources yesterday led to the leak of material from the Sept. 15, 1972, conversation and to charges by some Democrats on the committee that significant portions of the discussion had been excised from the White House transcript.

Mr. St. Clair's request for an end to closed hearings on the impeachment evidence followed the publication this morning, in a number of newspapers, of reports of portions of a conversation recorded Sept. 15, 1972. In that passage, the President reportedly spoke of giving The Washington Post a "damnable, damnable" time in getting license renewals for its television stations.

The passage, part of a conversation among Mr. Nixon,

Mr. Dean and H. R. Haldeman, then the White House chief of staff, was not included in an edited transcript made public by the President two weeks ago.

Post Official Replies

Mr. St. Clair told reporters that the discussion was "totally irrelevant" to the impeachment inquiry. He said that suggestions by some Democrats on the panel that the passage had been deliberately omitted from the transcript was "a red herring."

The president of the Washington Post Company, Larry H. Israel, issued a statement today suggesting, however, that the Sept. 15 conversation might have been related to challenges filed four months later against the Post ownership of two television stations. In each case, the challengers included individuals who had been active in Mr. Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign.

"It should be deeply disturbing to every citizen," Mr. Israel said, "that the White House will try to use the licensing renewal processes of a Federal regulatory agency for economic retaliation against a newspaper exercising its proper journalistic responsibilities and to attempt to intimidate it for doing so."

But Mr. St. Clair, and a number of the committee members, appeared more concerned for the moment that the information had seeped out of the closed hearing. It was the first substantive leak of information from the committee in the seven months since the impeachment inquiry began.

"We gave the committee that tape," Mr. St. Clair told men. "We didn't hide anything."

He said, in response to a question, that his attitude reflected that of the President and that he was "very disturbed" about the breach of confidentiality.

"This is no protection to the President," Mr. St. Clair said.

Republicans on the panel generally supported the White House attitude. Representative Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland called for an investigation and said that if a staff member had leaked the information he should be dismissed. If a Representative was responsible, he should be "censured," Mr. Hogan added.

The committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, said this afternoon that he did not foresee any prospect of ending the closed hearings before sometime next week.