

Mr. Nixon's 'Definitive' Escape Clause

by Clayton Fritchey

[On what Mr. Nixon means by the word "definitive," as in obeying "a definitive decision by the Supreme Court." Fritchey: "It is widely, but imprudently, taken for granted that the President will yield if the Supreme Court upholds the order of U.S. District Court Judge John Sirica to turn over the tapes. Mr. Nixon, over the years, has shown that he is a master of the fine-print technique*of investing his most categorical pledges with escape clauses."]

*for recent example, see memo in Chronology 22 Aug 73.