

Subpoena Plan

Vote Today on Nixon Papers

Washington

The chief counsel of the Senate Watergate committee accused the White House yesterday of refusing to cooperate with the committee's investigation and said the committee probably will vote today on whether to subpoena documents that President Nixon has declined to turn over to the panel.

Referring to the White House refusal to supply the documents, Samuel Dash told reporters: "Obviously we've reached a point where they've decided it is not appropriate to cooperate."

Dash's comments came amid reports from both White House and committee sources that they expect the current round of Senate hearings to end next month without resolving the question of President Nixon's role in the Watergate affair.

REFUSAL

According to Senate sources, the difficulty in understanding what role Mr. Nixon may have played has been compounded by his refusal to appear before the committee or to supply White House documents formally sought by the committee. The sources said it is virtually certain that the committee will vote to subpoena the documents, thus setting the stage for a possible constitutional struggle between the President Nixon and the Congress.

MEMORANDUM

In a letter to the Senate committee released Saturday, the President declined either to testify or to supply White House papers, adding that it was his obligation "to defend the office of the presidency against encroachment by other branches."

Coverage Today on KRON-TV

The Senate committee hearings on the Watergate affair will be telecast today on KRON-TV (Channel 4) beginning at 7 a.m.

They will be re-broadcast at 8 o'clock tonight by KQED-TV (Channel 9).

Live radio coverage today will also be provided by KQED-FM and KPFA-FM.

Dash said the committee staff has prepared a memorandum of law on the question of its authority to subpoena the documents and that the memo will be presented to the committee during an executive session this morning.

Committee sources said the memo argues that there is clear authority to subpoena all White House papers relevant to the Watergate investigation and recommends that the committee vote to compel the President to surrender them to the panel.

If the committee votes to subpoena White House papers and Mr. Nixon refuses to turn them over, the issue presumably would have to be resolved in the courts.

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