

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 17—
 Following are the texts of letters from George P. Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury, to Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, from President Nixon to Secretary Shultz, and from Senator Ervin to the President; and excerpts from remarks by Senators Ervin and Howard H. Baker Jr., the committee vice chairman, all relating to efforts by the committee to gain access to the recordings of conversations involving the Watergate scandal that took place in the President's offices:

Shultz Letter

Dear Mr. Chairman:
 At the direction of the President, I hereby enclose a letter relative to testimony by the Secret Service to Congressional committees.
 Sincerely yours,
 GEORGE P. SHULTZ

Nixon Letter

Dear Secretary Shultz:
 I hereby direct that no office or agent of the Secret Service shall give testimony to Congressional committees

concerning matters observed or learned while performing protective functions for the President or in their duties at the White House.

This applies to the Senate select committee which is investigating matters relating to the Watergate break-in and the current efforts which I am informed are being made to subpoena present or former members of the White House detail of the Secret Service.

You will please communicate this information to the Director of the Secret Service promptly and either you or he should then personally notify the chairman of the Senate select committee. You should further advise the chairman that requests for information on procedures in the White House will be given prompt consideration when received by me.

Sincerely,
 RICHARD NIXON

Ervin Comment

The committee had subpoenaed certain of the agents of the Secret Service, and they appeared in obedience to the subpoena. Senator Baker and myself, as mem-

bers of the committee, and members of the committee staff thereupon undertook to interrogate one of these Secret Service agents, Al Wong. At that time counsel for the Secretary of the Treasury entered a plea of executive privilege claiming that under this plea of executive privilege the witnesses, Mr. Wong and the other Secret Service agents, could not be required to testify before the committee. Counsel read copies of the two letters which I have just read to set forth and sustain, the plea of executive privilege.

As a consequence of these letters, Senator Baker and I convened a special executive session of the entire committee, feeling this is a matter of such moment that the entire committee should consider it.

After discussion, the committee reached the conclusion that it was not worthwhile at the present time to engage in any controversy with the witnesses on the question of whether or not they should be required to testify before the committee, the committee feeling that this was not a matter the

witnesses were permitted to determine for themselves.

But the committee noted the closing sentence in the letter from the President to the Secretary of the Treasury, reading as follows:

"You should further advise the chairman that requests for information on procedures in the White House will be given prompt consideration when received by me." End of quotation.

The committee hopes that the word "procedures" is much broader than the strict interpretation that that word might imply and is only interested at this stage in getting access and the right to use in the hearings of records and tapes in the possession of the White House which are relevant to the matters which the committee is authorized by Senate Resolution No. 60 to investigate.

Being desirous of adjusting this matter, if possible, on an amicable basis with the White House, the committee decided that the chairman should send a letter to the President asking for his cooperation in making available to the committee records and

Release of White House Tapes Involving Watergate

tapes which are relevant to the matters which the committee is authorized to investigate, and relevant to the testimony of witnesses who have appeared before the committee or who are subpoenaed to appear before the committee. And I sincerely hope that this course of action will bear fruit and that we will be able to get access to the records and tapes which we think are relevant and necessary to our investigation in a manner that is satisfactory to everybody concerned.

Baker Comment

Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with your description of the situation as the committee finds it.

I would note further that the committee decided, as you very accurately pointed out, that it would serve no immediate purpose to engage in a conflict or controversy with the Secret Service on whether they should or should not disclose information at their disposal, but rather the decision-making authority resided elsewhere. It is in a spirit of concilia-

tion that we are dispatching a letter which we have now authorized to the President making these requests:

1. Who is the custodian of the tapes?
2. Who has had access to the tapes?
3. How do we go about receiving that information and the tapes as they relate to the lawful inquiry of this committee, not to a general fishing expedition, not on matters that are clearly protected by executive privilege, such as foreign affairs, internal communications not related to the Watergate situation, but how do we go about getting those relevant portions of the tapes?

'Monumental Importance'

We are, I hope, being both patient and optimistic in taking this course of action instead of pursuing an effort to compel testimony from Secret Service agents which we might or might not prevail in this litigation or otherwise. So, I commend the chairman for the action taken, for his description of the situation, and I am hopeful that we will have a response very, very promptly

because these hearings are on-going. It is a matter of monumental importance, and I hope that we can have a discussion very quickly.

Now, the last point I would make, Mr. Chairman, if I may, is the fact that it is public knowledge that a tentative meeting between you and the President had been arranged for. The President's unfortunate illness has intervened to apparently delay that or at least possibly delay that, and may I say for my part that I hope that that meeting can occur as quickly as possible, or in lieu of that meeting that at least the principal staff of this committee and principal staff of the White House might immediately begin conversations on how we could gain access to the documents and the tapes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ervin Letter

Dear Mr. President:

Today the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign activities met and unanimously voted that I request that you provide the committee with all relevant documents and tapes under con-

trol of the White House that relate to the matters the select committee is authorized to investigate under S. Res. 60. I refer to the documents mentioned in my letter to Mr. Leonard Garment of June 21, 1973, and the relevant portions of the tapes alluded to by Mr. Alexander Butterfield before the committee on July 16, 1973.

If your illness prevents our meeting to discuss these issues in the next day or two, I should like to suggest that you designate members of your staff to make arrangements for our access to White House documents and tapes pertinent to the committee's investigation.

I should like respectfully to relate that the committee's investigation is ongoing and that access to relevant documents should not be delayed if the committee is to perform its mission. May we hear from you at your earliest convenience.

The committee deeply regrets your illness and hopes for you a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,
 Sam J. Ervin Jr.
 Chairman.