

NYTimes JUL 20 1973
**Aide Declares President
Won't Turn Over Tapes**

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 19— President Nixon has decided not to give Senate investigators access to the tape recordings of his personal and telephone conversations with Watergate suspects in 1972 and 1973, a White House official said today.

The official's remarks went beyond those of Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presidential press secretary. Mr. Ziegler announced this morning at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where Mr. Nixon is recuperating from viral pneumonia, that the President would spend the weekend at his retreat at Camp David, Md., working on a letter to the Senate Watergate committee about the tapes.

This afternoon the chairman of the committee, Senator

Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, received a telephone call purporting to be from George P. Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury, in which Mr. Ervin was told that the President had decided to let the committee have the tapes. A few minutes after Mr. Ervin had announced this at the Watergate hearings, he learned that it was a hoax.

Mr. Nixon, whose doctors reported after a morning medical examination that his illness had run its course, will fly to Camp David tomorrow afternoon. His statement about the tapes is expected to be delivered to Senator Ervin and released to the public on

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3
Monday.

Mr. Nixon, whose doctors reported after a morning medical examination that his illness had run its course, will fly to Camp David tomorrow afternoon. The statement is expected to be delivered to the committee chairman, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, and released Monday.

Mr. Ziegler refused to speculate about the contents of the par ned statement.

But the other White House official, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified, said that, unless Mr. Nixon changed his mind over the weekend, the answer to Mr. Ervin would be negative.

"We have already made it clear that Presidential papers would not be turned over," the official said, "and we've said that we consider these recordings Presidential papers. If we gave Ervin the tapes, we would have to give him all the papers."

Sources on Capitol Hill said that Melvin R. Laird, one of Mr. Nixon's counselors, had informed Republican Congressional leaders that he believed pertinent sections of the tapes should be released and that he was arguing that position within the Administration. But, by Mr. Laird's own admission, the President has not been willing recently to take his advice on Watergate matters.

Reviewing Officer Urged

Among the proposals being med by White House aides who would like to see Mr. Nixon make the tapes public — a sizable group, by some accounts — is the appointment of a special reviewing officer who would listen to the tapes and decide which were relevant.

Such a procedure would presumably ease the problem of executive privilege that the President's spokesmen have

identified as the barrier to disclosure. Two former Republican Senators, John J. Williams of Delaware and John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, have been named as possible candidates.

Samuel Dash, the Ervin committee's chief counsel, said in a break in the hearing today that the committee "would settle for nothing less" than the full tapes. It would not accept a summary of or report on their contents, he added.

Date Not Set

Mr. Dash also said that he was "not clear" as to whether the proposed meeting between Senator Ervin and Mr. Nixon would ever take place, although he denied having any inside information.

The meeting was agreed to in a lunch-hour conversation

between Mr. Ervin and the President a week ago. Several hours later, Mr. Nixon was taken to the hospital, and since then, his spokesmen have said only that a date for the meeting has not been set.

Neither Mr. Ziegler nor his deputy, Gerald L. Warren, has been willing to say either that the meeting would definitely be held or that it would definitely not be held.

The meeting was arranged to discuss the releae of Presidential papers, before the existence of the Nixon tapes became known. Now that the tapes have become the focal point of the case, and the President is preparing to make a detailed statement about them, the Nixon-Ervin meeting may become moot, some White House sources say.