



# GOP Senators Are Angry

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WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans are dismayed, angry and on the verge of an open break with President Nixon over his handling of the Watergate scandal.

The tone of GOP displeasure is best stated by Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the GOP presidential candidate in 1964 and leader of the party's conservative wing.

"I think the President has made a mistake by refusing to release these tapes," Goldwater said in an interview.

"It's not a question of separation of powers or a constitutional confrontation — that's a smokescreen. The important question here is the honor and the veracity of the President of the United States.

"I think the President must release these tapes and he must come before the Senate Watergate Committee and the television cameras and tell the truth.

Goldwater's views are a

blow to the White House. "There's no question about it, Barry is becoming a real bellwether on Watergate" a White House aide said.

Unless Nixon bows to stiffening GOP demand, he could end up with only token support in the coming months when his resignation or impeachment could become a serious issue.

House GOP Leader Gerald R. Ford said there is not the same "apparent disintegration" among Republicans in the House, where any impeachment action would have to start. "If anything, I think the current problem has solidified our ranks," he contended.

Equally alarmed was Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, the man Nixon once picked to be chairman of the Republican Party.

"We can't wait while Nixon lets the fuse burn down," Dole said. "What's he waiting for — the polls to turn around and show 40 percent favor impeachment and 24 percent approve of his administration?"

Goldwater and Dole are on the conservative side of the GOP, but in many ways are harsher on the President than the moderate to liberal party wing.

Republican liberal Sens. Jacob Javits of New York and Edward Brooke of Massachusetts both have vehemently opposed Nixon's decision to withhold the tapes.

Worried about the sagging economy and continued dollar problems abroad caused by a lack of confidence, Brooke has been a leader in insisting Nixon speak out.

But Nixon's harshest Republican critic in the Senate is Sen. William Saxbe, Ohio. Saxbe is looking beyond the current hearings and is talking seriously about removing Nixon from office.

"The trouble is that you would wind up with Spiro T. Agnew," Saxbe said.

Agnew isn't that bad, is he?

"The hell he isn't," Saxbe replied. "Agnew isn't the answer. They talk about Nixon 'toughing it out.' That's no solution either."