

# Inouye: Panel Can Proceed

By Judy Nicol

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Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) said yesterday he thinks the Senate Watergate committee can issue an adequate report without hearing tapes of President Nixon's conversations about Watergate with White House staff members.

"I think we can proceed and file an adequate report without the tapes," said Inouye, a member of the Senate Watergate committee.

"As far as I am concerned personally," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press" program, this is where the difference between a legislative proceeding and a judicial proceeding comes in. If this were a criminal matter, I would say that the tapes are absolutely necessary."

He was asked, "You personally don't care then who is telling the truth?"

"It is not our business to decide the guilt or innocence of any party," Inouye responded.

The presidential tapes are being sought by lawyers for both the committee and by

Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica has ruled that the President must turn over nine tapes sought by Cox on behalf of the Watergate grand jury here for Sirica's secret "in camera" inspection. Sirica would then determine which portions, if any, would go to the grand jury.

Sirica has not yet ruled on a



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## SEN. DANIEL K. INOUE . . . tapes not crucial

separate Watergate committee suit seeking to have tapes and other presidential documents turned over to the committee.

Mr. Nixon's lawyers contend that the committee had exceeded the legislative powers granted to the Congress by the Constitution.

Inouye said yesterday the two most significant things accomplished by the Watergate committee hearings were assuring the public that the Congress was trying to improve the electoral process and the establishment in the public political ethics."

He said he has recently made a complete disclosure of the names, addresses and professions of every person who bought a ticket of \$5 or more to a recent fund-raising dinner for him in Hawaii.

The list of campaign contributors named a Washington attorney as one of the two largest donors. When William

F. Ragan of Potomac, Md., was told that Inouye had listed his gift of \$5,000 among 745 contributions, Ragan said, "Good for him."

His law firm of Ragan and Mason handles international, maritime and national resources matters, Ragan said, but has no clients or special interests in Hawaii. Inouye is a member of the Senate Commerce Commission and is chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Commerce and Tourism. In addition, he heads the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Ragan said, "I think he's an excellent senator and he's done a great job." Inouye has been a friend for more than 10 years and "if I could do more I guess I would have," Ragan said. The fund-raising dinner last month raised \$113,901.