

Goldwater's Advice on Nixon Tapes

New York

Saying that "a complete clearing of the air is long overdue," Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep.-Ariz.) suggested yesterday that President Nixon release portions of the Watergate tapes.

He also suggested in an article for the New York Times that the President consider holding a televised debate with Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem.-N.C.), on contested portions of the Watergate testimony.

"I am suggesting that President Nixon release selected portions of the Watergate tapes through whatever device meets with the approval both of the White House and the Congress," he wrote.

"I believe this can be done voluntarily without sacrificing the vital principle of separation of powers and without compromising presidential confidentiality," Goldwater said.

He did not detail how he thought the portions of the tapes might be selected, or who, if anyone other than the President and his aides, would be allowed to hear the rest of the tapes.

On his second suggestion, Goldwater said, "I believe it might be productive to explore with Senator Ervin and the White House the possibility of a nationally televised debate between the chairman of the select committee (on Watergate) and the President of the United States on contested portions of the Watergate testimony.

"Needless to say, such an occasion would require stringent ground rules worked out in advance by both parties to the debate. This would be an extreme measure, but this is an extreme situation."

Associated Press