

Ervin Rejects Tape Summary

Asheville, N.C.

Senate Watergate Committee Chairman Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem-N.C.) says his committee could not accept a summary of the contents of the Watergate tapes as proposed by President Nixon.

"I have never agreed," he said, "under any circumstances, to receive summaries made by any man. I would not receive a summary because a summary is another man's interpretation of the contents of the tapes."

"Any statement involving summaries was not part of the compromise. That's not what the President said to me. He never said anything like that."

"My understanding has been all the time that the committee would get the exact words off the tapes sent to us by Senator (John) Stennis (Dem-Miss.) relevant to the matters we're authorized to investigate."

The Watergate committee had lost a court attempt to

force the President to release the tapes to the committee. U.S. District Judge John Sirica ruled he had no authority to require the

President to turn over the tapes to the Senate committee.

Sirica earlier had ruled, however, that the President would be required to turn over the tapes to the judge, who would determine what portions should be given to a grand jury for use in possible criminal indictments.

Mr. Nixon Friday night announced a "compromise," in which he would personally make a "summary" of what the tapes contained. The summary — and not the tapes themselves — he said, would be turned over to both the court and the Senate committee.

The question of a summary rather than verbatim transcripts prompted special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox into his showdown with the President.

United Press