

House OKs Watergate Tapes Bill

Washington

The House gave final approval yesterday to a bill giving chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica jurisdiction over at Senate Watergate committee subpoena of White House tapes.

Sirica ruled in October that there was no law giving him jurisdiction to enforce such subpoenas and dismissed the committee suit.

Instead of appealing to higher courts, the committee wrote a bill to confer jurisdiction upon the court and the Senate passed it November 9. The House approved it by voice vote and sent it to the White House for expected approval.

Sirica said when he dismissed the suit that he was making no judgment on the merits of the committee subpoenas. He meanwhile ordered the White House to comply with grand jury subpoenas of the tapes.

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