

Watergate Committee Votes to Subpoena Over 200

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The Senate Watergate Committee voted unanimously today to subpoena over 200 White House tapes and documents related to its investigation.

The committee acted less than 15 hours after winning statutory authority from Congress to seek help from the Federal courts in obtaining the material.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the committee chairman, expressed his hope that "the White House will manifest its

recognition of the fact that the committee is engaged in a legal and constitutional activity" and accept and comply with the subpoena.

J. Fred Buzhardt, Jr., special White House counsel, said he would accept the subpoenas when, as expected, they are served tomorrow.

Samuel Dash, the committee's chief counsel, said the White House would be served two subpoenas. The first will request a number of tapes relating to the Watergate break-in and cover-up, while the second

would deal primarily with documents on campaign funding.

Asked how many documents and tapes were involved, Senator Ervin replied: "There are great many. They're in the scores, certainly."

New Material

The material covered in the two subpoenas voted on today is being requested by the committee for the first time. The committee will continue, in the meantime, to seek enforcement of the subpoenas issued last July.

Earlier this fall, Chief Judge John J. Sirica ruled that the Federal courts had no authority to enforce those subpoenas, and the committee lost its case.

It was to overcome this objection that Congress passed a bill granting the district court here jurisdiction over any suit on Watergate subpoenas.

Senator Ervin was asked to comment on President Nixon's remark last night that he would not veto the measure, but that it was "bad legislation."

"My statement in reply to

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White House Tapes and Documents

that," Senator Ervin said, "is that its bad for Congress to have to pass a law to compel the President to do something which the Constitution already requires him to do when it

states that the Presiden shall faithfully execute the laws."

Senator Ervin said that the White House's refusal to hand over the material "has postponed the committee's work by

many, many months." I is also been responsible, he said, "for some of the promulgation of the Watergate affair being in the public eye."