

CBS News
transcribed from tape

20 Jan 74

Christopher Glenn, 12 p.m. (Pacific time):

The Associated Press says it has learned from an informed source that the White House has prepared detailed transcripts of President Nixon's conversations with John Dean. The wire service's source said that he had read the documents and that some of the information in them refutes some of Dean's charges against the President - but that the White House had decided against releasing the papers.

George Herman, 1 p.m.:

.... there's a new campaign by supporters of President Nixon to affirm the President's innocence of Watergate charges, despite the continuing silence from the White House itself. CBS News correspondent, Maria McLaughlin, reports:

McLaughlin: A reliable source tells CBS News that the White House some time ago put together transcripts of most of John Dean's conversations with President Nixon, preparator to making them public. The source, who has seen the transcripts, says that John Dean's testimony about the contents of those conversations prior to March 21st is not borne out by the transcripts. The White House reportedly decided not to release the transcripts for two reasons; one, that they felt that their publication could infringe on the rights of some other individuals, and secondly, that their publication would go against the White House policy of confidentiality. According to the information given to CBS News, the transcripts - if accurate - could completely clear the President of at least one of the charges made against him by John Dean.

Maria McLaughlin, CBS News, Washington.

The White House has declined comment on Maria McLaughlin's story.

On CBS's Face the Nation today, Republican Senate leader Hugh Scott said that he'd had access to evidence that would exculpate President Nixon, but he said he had not been able to persuade the men who form a shell around the President to release that evidence. Senator Scott also said he had the feeling that Democrats in the Congress may try to string out any impeachment process as long as possible, for

political reasons, but Scott said that that had not yet begun to happen.

CBS News continues, after this message