

Nixon Subpoena Finally Arrives; Mailed From Coast 8 Days Ago

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP)—A subpoena ordering President Nixon's appearance in a Los Angeles court finally got to the right place Tuesday—the clerk of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

It took eight days to get there.

The subpoena was mailed on Feb. 4 by the clerk for Judge Gordon Ringer of the Los Angeles Superior Court to the Superior Court here. The subpoena apparently arrived yesterday but the clerk here, Joseph Burton, did not get it until this noon.

The United States Postal Service, which says that certified letters normally take three days or so, is trying to find out why it took so long. Postal inspectors are working on it.

Mr. Burton is wondering why there was an in-house delay. The receipt for the certified letter apparently got back to Los Angeles about the same time that Mr. Burton got the letter.

Mr. Burton immediately forwarded the subpoena to United States Attorney Earl J. Silbert for action.

"In all procedures they are the ones who will present it in court," Mr. Burton said, "it's just a routine form. It lists routine things necessary for an affidavit as a material witness."

The document orders Mr. Nixon to testify at a hearing Feb. 25 and at the trial of John D. Ehrlichman, the President's former adviser for domestic affairs, and two other former White House aides — G. Gordon Liddy and David R. Young — on April 15. The three men are charged with burglary and conspiracy in the break-in of the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, the former psychiatrist of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who said he gave the Pentagon papers to the press in 1971.

The White House said Mr. Nixon would refuse to testify, but the possibility of an affidavit was left open.