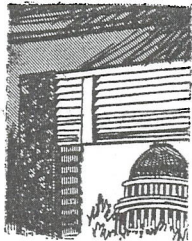


Game Plan ~~~~~**How Nixon Avoids
The Confrontation**~~~~~ **Mary McGrory**

Washington

THE PRESIDENT MEANT IT when he said, "one year of Watergate is enough." He is now engaged in writing a new script and it could be called "impeachment made easy."

Congress may have the fateful, dreaded task lifted from its shoulders. The way he is traveling now, the President is going to impeach himself. He is headed straight for the cliff.



Once again, Richard Nixon has denied the special prosecutor documents he considered essential to his work. Then the President sent out his press secretary to say that he does not want a confrontation with the special prosecutor.

Leon Jaworski does not want a confrontation, either. Instead of going to court, which he has the President's express permission to do, he has reported the President's new defiance to Congress.

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JAWORSKI WAS UPBRAIDED last Friday by Judge Gerhard Gesell for repeating on a talk show a contention made previously in open court, that John Dean, the President's accuser, is not a perjurer.

The 69-year-old Texan was called up for indulging in pretrial publicity, but it is hardly grounds for dismissal.

It was not even grounds, the judge ruled, for dismissing the case of Dwight Chapin, the president's former appointments secretary.

Chapin's lawyer, Jacob Stein, joined in the current White House effort to impeach John Dean.

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THE CHAPIN ARGUMENTS bespoke the game plan of the other dwindling band of loyalists who are trying to save themselves and the President, possibly in that order. John Ehrlichman, for instance, subpoenaed the President, knowing he would not come. The common hope seems to be that with evidence and witnesses withheld, the unhappy few can ask for dismissal.

The strategy may help them for a while. But it won't help the president. All he can look forward to, if he holds back, is a suit from Jaworski or a contempt citation from the house, or both.

Nothing changes his situation. At the end of the long tunnel in which he flounders and shouts, John Dean is still waiting for him.

Nixon is now "cooperating fully" with the proceedings. He is, in fact, hastening them, because there is nothing else for him to do.

*Washington Star***Question Man O'Hara is ill**