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**Nixon Seeks to Limit House
To Inquiry on Watergate**

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WASHINGTON, March 7 — President Nixon, in an apparent attempt to limit the scope of the impeachment inquiry, has refused to give the House Judiciary Committee tape record-

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ings or documents that do not bear directly on the Watergate cover-up, the committee disclosed today.

If unchallenged by the committee, the President's position would rule out the panel's access to White House evidence related to such diverse matters as Mr. Nixon's income tax payments, his Administration's relations with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation or his decision to authorize secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969.

The committee members agreed, at a meeting this morning, to put off until later this month a decision on whether to issue formal subpoenas for evidence of the type the President insists on withholding.

But Republicans and Democrats on the panel said that they would issue such subpoenas if necessary, and one member described the delay as "going the last mile" to encourage the White House to cooperate with the investigation of Mr. Nixon's conduct in office.

In a related action, the committee voted unanimously to urge Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the Federal District Court here to supply "forthwith" two sealed reports of the Watergate grand jury and a briefcase that is said to contain evidence of Mr. Nixon's possible role in the alleged conspiracy to obstruct the Watergate investigation.

The White House defiance of the committee came one day after Mr. Nixon declared in a

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televised news conference that he had made a "very forthcoming offer" to cooperate with the panel. It was expressed in a letter from James D. St. Clair the President's special Watergate counsel, to John M. Doar, the Judiciary Committee's special counsel on impeachment.

The letter, dated yesterday,

said, "in the President's opinion, the Watergate matter and widespread allegations of obstruction of justice in connection therewith are at the heart of this matter."

Mr. St. Clair's letter said that Mr. Nixon, in agreeing to supply the committee with all cover-up evidence already turned over the special Watergate prosecutor, "will have provided the committee with the necessary materials to resolve any questions concerning him."

6 Areas of Inquiry

The President is confident, the letter went on, "that when these are reviewed, the committee will be satisfied that no grounds for impeachment exist."

The cover-up, however, is only one of six broad areas of the House committee's investigation into whether there are grounds for impeachment.

Mr. Nixon's position would appear to rule out cooperation with the committee on the five other areas—allegation of illegal domestic surveillance activities, of espionage and sabotage in the 1972 Presidential campaign; of improprieties in Mr. Nixon's personal finances, of the use of Government agencies for political purposes, and of the misuse of Presidential power.

Mr. Doar told the committee that he interpreted the letter as follows:

"This seems to say to me, 'Mr. Doar, your case against the President is simply the Watergate cover-up.'"

The committee counsel told the panel, "No one outside this committee should set the limits of this inquiry."

6 Recordings Sought

He said that, if the committee should later issue subpoenas that were ignored or defied by the President, Mr. Nixon could be held in contempt of Congress and his refusal to cooperate could itself become grounds for impeachment.

Mr. Doar told the committee that his request Feb. 25 for a number of specific items of White House evidence included six tape recordings that had not been turned over to Leon Jaworski, the special prosecutor. Mr. Doar said that the tapes were related to the alleged cover-ups.

Mr. St. Clair's letter was silent as to whether the recordings would be given to the committee, Mr. Doar said.

At his news conference last night, Mr. Nixon implied, without saying implicitly, that the

committee would not get the six tapes. The President said that he would give the panel the same material Mr. Jaworski had obtained and that if there were other issues to be resolved he would answer written questions or permit the two senior committee members to interview him privately.

Representative Robert F. Drinan, Democrat of Massachusetts, proposed that the committee issue a subpoena today for the six tapes. The motion was seconded by Representative Charles B. Rangel, Democrat of Manhattan, who said that such a subpoena would determine "if the White House is going to cooperate or the President is going to operate in contempt of this Congress."

But Mr. Doar and the panel's chief Republican counsel, Albert E. Jenner Jr., urged that they be given time to explore with Mr. St. Clair whether the White House might cooperate with additional requests for evidence.

Republicans and Democrats, voicing varying degrees of reluctance, said that the committee should follow the advice of its lawyers.

Representative David W. Dennis, Republican of Indiana, said, for example, that he would rather avoid the risk of a court fight over a subpoena and a delay in the inquiry but that he would "vote for a subpoena if we get to that point."

Confrontation Forecast

Representative John Conyers Jr., Democrat of Michigan, predicted that the committee would find itself in a "serious confrontation" with the President. He charged that Mr. Nixon had misled the nation into believing he was "in all compliance" with the committee.

But Mr. Conyers said that he would accept a delay in issuing subpoenas as "going the last mile with the President and his representatives."

Mr. Doar said that the delay would give the inquiry staff the opportunity to digest the material yielded by the President and determine with greater clarity what additional materials would be needed.

Father Drinan, who is a Jesuit priest, eventually yielded but washed his hands of the panel's informal decision. He said that he thought the committee was making a "profound mistake" but that he would drip his motion on deference to the lawyers and "because the votes aren't here."

The committee had no difficulty reaching unanimity on a request for unqualified access to the sealed grand jury material that was the subject of a hearing yesterday in Judge Sirica's courtroom.

Mr. Jenner and Mr. Doar said they had not seen the sealed material but had been told that it was in three parts—two grand jury "reports," one of two pages and the other of 50 pages, and a briefcase containing relevant documents.