

Tapes Sought On 3 Topics

Washington

Chairman Peter W. Rodino indicated yesterday that the House impeachment inquiry is formally requesting more tapes to determine whether President Nixon was involved in Watergate and possibly in the ITT and milk fund affairs.

The New Jersey Democrat refused to give details on the new request at an impromptu news conference but said "it is not unlikely" new requests will be going out.

The new requests would be for tapes and documents in addition to the 42 White House conversations subpoenaed and due by Thursday.

Rodino said the White House had first been advised the committee was seeking the new material in a letter April 11.

Asking whether the request would be for material in all three areas outlined in that letter, Rodino said "I'm sure it would be as comprehensive as possible."

A copy of the letter obtained by the Associated Press shows that committee special counsel John Doar advised White House counsel James D. St. Clair there would be additional requests for:

- More tapes and documents in the area Doar had outlined in a letter April 4. That was the letter saying the inquiry needed the 42 subpoenaed conversations to determine whether Mr. Nixon had knowledge of the Watergate break-in or knew of or participated in the coverup or other illegal Watergate acts.

- Tapes and documents regarding allegations that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. and the dairy industry got special

White House favors in return for campaign contributions.

Chairman Rodino also said the House Judiciary Committee "will not be satisfied" with the White House response to the subpoena for 42 presidential conversations if published reports are true that edited transcripts of 36 conversations are to be turned over.

The committee's ranking Republican, Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, said he would be willing to accept edited transcripts.

But he said some arrangement should be worked out between White House and

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committee lawyers to assure that the transcripts are complete and accurate.

He said that if the White House does not deliver all relevant portions of the 42 conversations by Thursday's deadline and does not comply with the new request, the House committee should simply make its recommendation for or against impeachment on the basis of material it already has.

"I think the time has come when we're going to have to make our decision . . ." Hutchinson told newsmen. "I don't think this should drag on for years and years or months and months."

Hutchinson said he has "no reason to believe" that hard evidence will disclose criminal acts by Mr. Nixon.

He made the comment in the context of saying that his own vote for or against impeachment will be guided by evidence, not his constituents' majority sentiment.

He said an office survey found constituents 67 per cent opposed to impeachment.

"But if hard evidence develops of criminal acts — and I have no reason to believe there is anything major . . ." he began but did not finish the sentence.

Associated Press