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**RODINO EXPECTS
TO EASE DEADLINE
ON NIXON'S TAPES**

**Predicts House Panel Will
Grant Request for 5-Day
Extension on Subpoena**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 23—President Nixon apparently won today five more days to respond to a House Judiciary Committee subpoena for tape recordings of 42 Watergate-related conversations.

The delay in the due date of the subpoena, from this Thursday to next Tuesday, was requested yesterday by James D. St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's special counsel for Watergate matters, and became known today. This afternoon, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., the New Jersey Democrat who heads the committee, said he was confident that the committee would agree to the request.

But there were indications that postponement of the deadline would only defer, and not avoid, a confrontation between the White House and the committee, which is considering impeachment of the President.

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy Presidential press secretary, spoke repeatedly of the need for more time to "prepare the materials" that would be submitted to the committee.

Hints About Transcripts

Mr. Warren's comments suggested that Mr. Nixon planned to give Mr. Rodino's panel partial transcripts of the tapes, which would require preparation, rather than the tapes themselves, which would not. White House sources and Representative John J. Rhodes, Republican of Arizona, the House minority leader, dropped similar hints.

Speaking in response to questions at a news conference, Mr. Rodino said that he and the entire committee would consider transcripts to be an "emphatically" unsatisfactory response.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by Mr. Rodino indicated that the committee was also apparently seeking White House evidence to determine if

Mr. Nixon had encouraged or known of false testimony by former high Administration officials about the settlement of an antitrust action against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation. [Details on Page 23].

Nixon Plans Review

As to the subpoenaed tapes, Mr. Rodino said that Mr. St. Clair had called the committee counsel, John M. Doar, to ask for the extension of the ground that "he was having a difficult time getting the material together and the President has not had a chance to review it."

Mr. Rodino then told Mr. Doar to ask whether part of the materials could be supplied Thursday, with others to follow.

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Mr. St. Clair responded that "the President wanted to review it all at once," he said.

At the morning White House briefing, Mr. Warren repeatedly refused to give details of White House intentions. But he, too, emphasized Mr. Nixon's desire to "review the response in its entirety." The President has not been able to do so, his spokesman said, because of the pressure of other business, such as legislative and economic problems.

Officials who have been dealing with the tapes question said, however, that White House staff members did not even begin to review the materials and prepare transcripts until early this month, although the original request was made on Feb. 25.

The White House's working hypothesis, they said, has been that it could head off trouble by offering the committee transcripts of some of the 42 conversations while arguing that others were either "irrelevant" to the committee's inquiry or had never been recorded.

A Decision on Sunday

On that basis, the officials reported, Ronald L. Ziegler, Mr. Nixon's press secretary, said early this month that the April 25 deadline would be met. On that basis, a White House official told several reporters over the weekend that partial transcripts would be supplied to the committee.

But Mr. Nixon apparently decided Sunday—perhaps in response to repeated statements by committee members that nothing short of full compliance would be tolerated—that he should review the entire strategy before finally committing himself to action.

Therefore, Mr. Warren was instructed to say yesterday that neither the form nor the substance of the response had been firmly established.

None of the few White House aides willing to discuss the situation offered any indication of Mr. Nixon's probable decision, once he completed his

latest review.

But two things said by Mr. Warren may have provided small clues. First, he insisted upon using the word "response" rather than the word "compliance," strongly suggesting that the White House had no intention of giving the committee all that it sought. Second, he said that it would be "wrong for anyone to assume" that the White House was even considering an outright rejection.

Thus, the President appeared to be headed toward a partial compliance, either more or less conciliatory to the position of the committee.

Mr. Rodino and his colleagues were clearly reluctant to agree to further delay, especially in light of frequent public and private White House accusations of foot-dragging tactics by the committee's Democratic majority.

Nonetheless, Mr. Rodino said at his news conference that the requested extension "would be reasonable" because "we don't want to have a confrontation." Having "gone the last mile" with the President, he said, "we want to grant him this one last request."

The committee is expected to vote on the request at a meeting. Representative Jerome R. Waldie, Democrat of California, was the only committee member to promise to vote against the extension. He argued that there had "been enough delay already—two months is time enough."

More typical was the comment of James R. Mann, Democrat of South Carolina, who said, "It's really mysterious, isn't it? Two months and five days. I don't believe there could have been any misunderstanding about the request. But I believe in avoiding irreconcilable conflict if it can be done in a reasonable way, if good intentions are indicated—which must be assumed for the time being."

Little Choice for Panel

As a practical matter, the committee has little choice but to vote the extension, since it has already decided that it will neither send the House sergeant-at-arms, or anyone else, to enforce the subpoena nor cite Mr. Nixon for contempt if he does not comply.

Advancing the deadline until next Tuesday will make the response to the House fall due only 48 hours before another subpoena from the special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski. Mr. Warren said he was not certain whether a delay would be sought in that deadline as well.

Also pending is the new request from the Judiciary Committee, confirmed today by Mr. Rodino, for 40 to 100 additional tapes and documents dealing with Watergate, the International Telephone case and political contributions by milk producers. Mr. Rodino said that he hoped no more requests would be necessary but made no promises.