

Nixon May Seek Support on Tapes

Transcript Instead of Recordings

Washington

President Nixon apparently is planning to seek public support next week for a decision to give the House Judiciary Committee transcripts rather than tape recordings of Watergate-related conversations subpoenaed for the impeachment inquiry.

Dean Burch, counselor to the President, told the Republican National Committee yesterday that Mr. Nixon will turn over "a massive body of evidence" to the committee.

The White House aide said the evidence will be "substantial," "relevant," "compelling and persuasive" and that, "out of this factual record, the whole story will emerge and the whole truth become known."

But Burch declined to tell newsmen after the speech whether Mr. Nixon will yield the actual tapes of 42 presidential conversations demanded in the Judiciary Committee's subpoena.

The apparent decision by Mr. Nixon to withhold the tapes themselves, which was suggested in a variety of comments and developments yesterday, could produce a new and major conflict with the Judiciary Committee.

But the White House was said to be preparing to counter the committee's position that it must have the tapes by mounting a new publicity campaign.

White House spokesmen

reasserted yesterday that no final decision had been made by the President on the form or content of his reply to the subpoena, which is due by 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Administration officials said privately, however, that it is likely that Mr. Nixon will turn over transcripts his lawyers had been preparing, with "irrelevant" sections

Back Page Col. 7

From Page 1

and coarse or blasphemous language deleted.

One official said the principal point still unsettled is the method the White House might adopt to assure the Judiciary Committee of the accuracy and authenticity of the transcripts.

The officials also said that Mr. Nixon is considering some form of public appeal for acceptance of his position and for reasserting his innocence of any wrongdoing. The possibility of a nationwide television address on Monday was reportedly raised when Mr. Nixon and his chief of staff, General Alexander M. Haig Jr., cruised on the Potomac river Thursday night aboard the White House yacht, Sequoia.

Judiciary Committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) has said several times in the past week that he and the committee would "emphatically" reject transcripts rather than the tape recordings.

The suggestions being made at the White House yesterday were that Mr. Nixon would seek public support for the "reasonableness" of an offer of transcripts authenticated in some way.

Republicans on the Judiciary Committee, anticipating a decision by the White

House to withhold the actual tapes, have sought this week to devise a procedure for the President's and the committee's lawyers to jointly screen the tapes to verify that only irrelevant or national security matters had been excised.

The Republican plan drafted by Representative Charles E. Wiggins of California, specifies that if evidence sought by the committee "includes taped conversations, transcripts thereof may be accepted in lieu of" the tapes themselves, so long as the committee has an opportunity to verify their accuracy.

Burch was said to be relying on transcripts rather than tapes in asking the Republican National Committee to "suspend judgment" of the President and offering the following assurance:

"Early next week, when the President responds to the committee subpoena, a massive body of evidence will supplant charges and allegations and innuendo, and out of this factual record the whole story will emerge and the whole truth become known."

"The body of evidence will be substantial. It will be relevant. It will be compelling and persuasive. I genuinely believe, beginning early next week, that the end of Watergate will be in sight."

New York Times