

# Showdown at D. C. Corral

By James McCartney  
Knight News Service

WASHINGTON — This week may be "high noon" for President Nixon in his struggle with House and prosecution investigators over the Watergate tapes.

But there is every indication that Nixon would just as soon sidestep a showdown. He appears determined to present the public image of full cooperation with investigators, while declining to give up the hard evidence demanded in subpoenas.

Deadlines are scheduled during the week for two crucial subpoenas — one from the House Judiciary Committee, the other from the Watergate special prosecutor—in which tapes are demanded.

The White House has not yet indicated what its reply will be, but there have been leaks and broad hints that suggest the White House is putting together a coordinated defensive campaign. It is expected to include:

- Release of "massive" amounts of new material in the form of White House prepared transcripts.
- Presidential speeches, one to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others on at least two trips outside Washington.
- Possibly a nationwide television address on Watergate. It could come tomorrow.
- Perhaps a new Watergate "white paper."

The objective seems to be to cultivate public opinion and, hopefully, to stay off impeachment.

The signs also suggest that the investigators aren't going to get the original tapes demanded in the subpoenas.

They are far more likely, according to White House sources, to get "transcripts"

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**The GOP ditches Nixon**

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A number of Republican officials yesterday rejected a White House appeal that they bind the party to President Nixon's future.

The general reaction among the GOP leadership was decidedly cool to the appeal made Friday by presidential adviser Dean Burch at a meeting of the Republican National Committee that "the President's record is a platform for Republican candidates to grab hold of and to run on."

"I don't think our fortunes should be built on any one man," national GOP vice chairman Ray C. Bliss said. "I don't care who he is."

Connecticut GOP State chairman J. Byran Gaffney said, "I don't think one state candidate will run in the fall on the President's record. We'll be running on our own record."

Rep. Marvin L. Esch (R-Mich.) said he thought Burch's speech was "a trial balloon . . . to try to tie the party to the President."

He said Republican congressmen must "run on their own record, and the President has his own record."

— edited to remove so-called "National security" information, as well as profanity by both the President and some of his former top aides.

This is not likely to satisfy the Judiciary Committee, which is investigating impeachment charges against Nixon.

The committee will probably want hard evidence of bad tape recordings and the committee chairman, Rep. Peter Rodino (Dem-N.J.) clearly isn't going to be happy with transcripts.

Rodino has said flatly that the committee wants the tapes themselves, not a White House-edited version.

If they are not provided, he has said, the committee will draw an "adverse" inference that evidence withheld may contain indications of the President's guilt.

He has said it would be logical for the committee to

assume that the President would provide the tapes in their entirety if they could prove his innocence.

The deadline for the Judiciary Committee's subpoena

<sup>30 APR</sup> is Tuesday. The White House already has been granted one extension.

The subpoena demands tapes of 42 conversations, many of them relating to the coverup period in the White House before former top aides H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman resigned a year ago.

The deadline for the Watergate special prosecutor's subpoena is Thursday.

Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski has demanded recordings or other records of 64 conversations, also tied to the Watergate coverup. Some duplicate Judiciary Committee requests.

Jaworski has said the records are needed as evidence in the trial of the "Watergate Seven," Haldeman, Ehrlichman and others indicted on coverup charges.

The White House has been saying for weeks that the President is determined to provide records that will tell "the whole story" of Watergate, but has never said it will supply everything asked in the subpoenas.