

## Demos' Reaction to Speech

# They Still Want the Tapes

### Washington

A solid majority of the House Judiciary Committee last night called unacceptable President Nixon's decision to give it manuscripts but not tapes of his Watergate conversations for its impeachment inquiry.

"We will accept no less . . . than the materials specified" in the subpoena sent to the President April 11, said chairman Peter W. Rodino (Dem - N.J.) yesterday afternoon after the White House had leaked word of the President's decision. Rodino's office said last night he had no further statement.

The subpoena demanded tapes of 42 conversations between the President and top aides during two months in early 1973 when he has said he first learned of the attempt to cover up the Watergate break-in.

All committee Democrats who could be reached agreed with Rodino that transcripts edited by the President are not an acceptable substitute for the spoken words which add the dimension of inflection and tone.

Mr. Nixon agreed to permit Rodino and the committee's senior Republican, Representative Edward Hutchinson (Rep - Mich.), to listen to the tapes to verify the transcripts.

But the committee's top staff members, John Doar and Albert Jenner, who are assembling the evidence, would not be permitted to hear the tapes, according to Mr. Nixon. Nor would any other committee members.

A majority of members felt they must be permitted to hear the tapes to make a judgment as to whether the President should be impeached for Watergate or other matters.

Several Republicans shared this view. But the two senior Republicans, Hutchinson and Representa-

tive Robert McClory (Rep - Ill.), said they were satisfied with Mr. Nixon's decision.

Hutchinson, who has stood solidly with Rodino for two months demanding that the White House turn over the materials, said after the speech: "I think it's a good proposition. I have no problem accepting transcripts so long as there is a method for verification. "If the committee decides we should listen to the tapes, I'm willing."

McClory said of the President's speech that it promised "adequate compliance with the subpoena" and "should completely satisfy our needs."

But Representative Tom Railsback (Rep - Ill.), another senior committee Republican, said "I have problems" with the White House's response — edited tapes. He said he would prefer that Rodino, Hutchinson, Doar and Jenner do the editing. "It is very important that we hear voice inflections," said Railsback.

Representative William Cohen (Rep - Me.) agreed with Railsback. Representative Charles Sandman (Rep - N.J.) said all committee members should be able to hear whatever Rodino and Hutchinson consider relevant.

The Republican high command formed ranks behind the President last night,

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hailing his decision to give the committee the transcripts and then to make them all public.

Vice President Gerald R. Ford said: "The President is giving the House Judiciary Committee more than enough information with which to carry out its investigation."

Republican National Chairman George Bush called the President's decision to make the tapes pub-

lic "a bold move" and said his plan to give the committee all pertinent information "should have broad public support. I am convinced this is a major step in putting the impeachment proceedings behind us and in laying to rest the charges against the President."

Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.) said, "the President's willingness to subject himself to sworn testimony before Chairman Rodino and Congressman Hutchinson is evidence of good faith."

Committee Democrats who commented were all opposed to the President's decision to give them edited transcripts, rather than the original tapes.

Representative Jerome R. Waldie (Dem-Antioch) said that Mr. Nixon was being "condescending and contemptuous" and that "his

duty is to respond to the subpoena."

Another committee Democrat, Representative Edward Mezvinsky of Iowa, said that in "attempting very clearly to discredit John Dean," the President had made it "all the more imperative that we do have the tapes."

Mezvinsky said that "to give us a sanitized, cleansed transcript of conversations just won't wash."

The most bitter reaction within the committee came from Representative Robert F. Drinan (Dem-Mass.), who was the first to introduce an impeachment resolution last year.

"I think this is a new diversionary tactic," said Father Drinan, who is a Jesuit priest and former dean of Boston College School of Law.

The committee's attitude toward the President's offer may in the end boil down to the judgment of the committee leaders and lawyers.

Rodino was closeted last night with Doar, the special counsel on impeachment, apparently preparing a response to give to the committee when it meets today.

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