

RODINO ADAMANT

Says Before Talk by President That He Wants Full Data

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 29—The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee insisted today that President Nixon must turn over tape recordings—and not transcripts—of some 42 Watergate-related conversations subpoenaed for the House impeachment inquiry.

The committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, took that position in an interview that preceded the President's television address tonight outlining his proposed action regarding the subpoenaed tapes.

Mr. Rodino said the tapes were "necessary and relevant" to the panel's attempt to "make a fair judgment" of Mr. Nixon's conduct in office.

Mr. Rodino, backed by other Democrats and some Republicans on the committee, in effect ruled out any compromise offer by the President that would give the inquiry less than physical custody of copies of the relevant portions of the recordings.

2 Republicans Concur

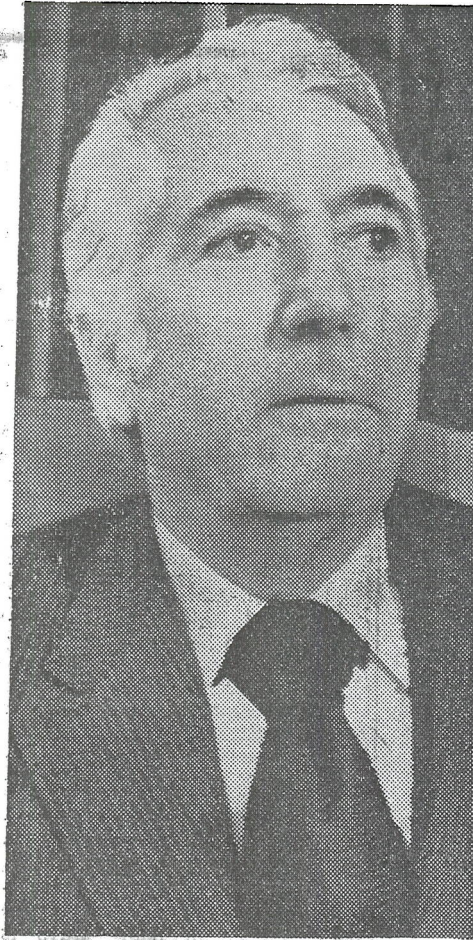
Committee members said that the tapes themselves would be essential to sort out conflicting Watergate testimony of witnesses who were relying on recollections of events and to determine what knowledge, if any, the President had of alleged wrongdoing by his associates.

"I still think we should have the tapes," Representative Tom RAILSBACK, Republican of Illinois, said.

"If a transcript can be turned over, there is no harm in the same information on the tapes being turned over," Representative William S. COHEN, Republican of Maine, agreed.

Both Republicans said that the committee would need the tapes to weigh "voice inflec-

Continued on Page 33, Column 1



Associated Press

Peter W. Rodino Jr.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

tions" and nuances of relevant conversations that might not be apparent in written transcripts.

Representative Don EDWARDS, Democrat of California, said that the Judiciary Committee could accept some mechanism by which the White House and committee lawyers would jointly screen out irrelevant or national security matters from the tapes, but that transcripts alone would be "unacceptable."

Albert Critical of Nixon

The House Speaker, Carl L. ALBERT, Democrat of Oklahoma, objected angrily to the President's decision to respond to the committee subpoena, which is returnable tomorrow, on television.

"I hope we can keep this issue out of politics," Mr. Albert told newsmen. "I hope [the President] doesn't start playing for public sympathy."

Chairman Rodino also said that the committee would continue to pursue an April 19 request for a number of additional White House tape recordings and documents relating to the Watergate cover-up attempt and to controversial cash donations to Mr. Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign by

airy farmers and the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Representative Barbara C. JORDAN, Democrat of Texas, told newsmen that the President did not have the right to determine what the impeachment inquiry would have access to in weighing Mr. Nixon's future.

"It is not within his jurisdiction to say when we have enough material," Miss Jordan

said. "That's a decision for the Judiciary Committee to make."

The same point was made in an interview by Representative John B. ANDERSON of Illinois, the chairman of the House Republican Conference.

"I cannot buy the idea that the question of relevance is to be left solely to the President and his attorneys," Mr. Anderson said.

Some Republicans on the panel voiced varying degrees of enthusiasm for transcripts as an alternative to access to the recordings. All of these members said, however, that the committee would need assurance from its senior members that no relevant conversations had been excised from the transcripts.

In addition, several Republicans said that it would be appropriate for the committee's lawyers—John M. DOAR, the special counsel, and Albert E. JENNER Jr., the chief minority counsel—to audit the tapes along with or rather than Mr. Rodino or Representative Edward HUTCHINSON of Michigan, the senior Republican on the committee. They said that only the senior staff members knew the full range of evidence accumulated for the inquiry and what might bear on it in the recordings.

"I certainly would not go up there"—to the White House—"without my lawyers," Representative Henry P. SMITH 3d, Republican of upstate New York, said.

3-Month Timespan

The subpoenaed conversations, between the President and various senior Administration and various senior Administration officials, all took place during February, March and April of last year—bracketing the March 21 date on which

Mr. Nixon said he had first been informed of alleged White House involvement in the Watergate cover-up attempt.

The committee formally requested the tapes on Feb. 25. After persistent White House demands for additional justification for the request, the panel voted, 33 to 3, on April 11 to issue the subpoena.

Just before the committee voted, White House lawyers offered to turn over conversations in four of six broad categories covered by the request. The committee refused, insisting on its right to all the material.

The original deadline for the President to comply with the subpoena was last Thursday. The White House sought and was granted a five-day extension, during which Mr. Nixon was said to have reassessed his options for responding to the demand.

Mr. Nixon's televised reply tonight may not end the matter, Mr. Rodino had said that failure by the President to comply in full with the subpoena could be cited by the committee as an impeachable offense should the panel decide to recommend articles of impeachment to the full House of Representatives.

The committee's course of action may be defined at a closed meeting tomorrow morning. The members are to discuss then their rules of procedure for impeachment hearings scheduled to start next Tuesday and expected to take up to six weeks.

Mr. Rodino told the House today, during debate on a resolution authorizing an extra \$733,000 for the committee this year for its regular duties and the impeachment inquiry, that he hoped the inquiry would be completed by June 30.