

# Nixon Will Give House His Transcripts Of 'Relevant' Parts of Watergate Tapes

## Rodino Rejects the Plan Before President's Talk; Panel Will Meet Today

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON—President Nixon told the nation he is turning over to the House Judiciary Committee transcripts of what he considers the relevant portions of some 40 taped conversations the committee has subpoenaed for its impeachment investigation.

Flanked by notebooks containing more than 1,200 pages of transcripts, Mr. Nixon told his television audience last night that the materials he's giving the committee "will at last—once and for all—show that what I knew and what I did with regard to the Watergate coverup were just as I have described them to you."

"The President has nothing to hide," Mr. Nixon declared.

The President also said he was giving the impeachment panel transcripts of some conversations that weren't subpoenaed but that he believes "have a bearing" on his Watergate-related actions.

### A White House Invitation

If the committee isn't satisfied with edited transcripts, Mr. Nixon said, its chairman, Rep. Peter Rodino (D., N.J.) and its ranking Republican, Rep. Edward Hutchin-

son of Michigan can come to the White House to listen to the original tapes. If Reps. Rodino and Hutchinson disagree about the relevancy of parts of the tapes, the President added, he is willing to meet with them personally to try to come to an agreement.

Meanwhile, appealing to his audience over the heads of the committee, Mr. Nixon said he was making public the same tran-

scripts that he is giving the panel. "The American people, as well as their Representatives, are entitled to the facts," the President said.

The President said he was confident the "overwhelming majority" of the people would agree that he has acted properly in the Watergate affair after they read the materials he is releasing. But whatever the reaction, Mr. Nixon said that "I intend to go forward to the best of my ability in the work you elected me to do."

The materials he is making public, Mr. Nixon said, will provide "all the evidence needed" to "get Watergate behind us and get it behind us now." However, he didn't say what he would do if the House Judiciary Committee subpoenas further material on other matters under investigation, such as the International Telephone & Telegraph Co. and milk cases. It has already requested material on these matters, but hasn't subpoenaed it.

Mr. Nixon's appeal to the people—and the sheer bulk of the notebooks he had stacked beside him in the Oval Office—may make it hard for the Judiciary Committee to press its demand for the tapes, themselves. There is, nevertheless, a good chance that a majority of the committee will find his offer unacceptable.

"We will accept no less than the material specified," Chairman Rodino declared earlier in the day when word of Mr. Nixon's impending offer was leaked from the White House.

The 38-member committee will meet today to consider what to do next.

Another ranking Democrat, Rep. Don Edwards of California, said earlier in the day that any procedure for screening the tapes that left the committee without actual possession was "totally unacceptable."

Some Republican members agreed. Rep. William Cohen of Maine said he wouldn't object to letting the chairman and the ranking GOP member screen the tapes for profanity, national security matters and the like. "But the members, themselves, are going to want to have actual tapes of some critical dates," Rep. Cohen told reporters. "The voice inflections, the context, don't come through on paper," he added.

On the other hand, some of the panel's Republicans seemed prepared to buy Mr. Nixon's proposal. Talking to reporters before the President's speech, Rep. Delbert Latta of Ohio called it "sufficient." And Rep. David Dennis of Indiana said Mr. Nixon's offer gave the committee better than "no chance" to verify the content of the tapes.

### Dean Accusations

As expected, Mr. Nixon said the transcripts will prove that he, rather than his chief accuser John Dean, is telling the truth, and he sought to put to rest some of the most damaging questions that have swirled around the Watergate cover-up. Noting that Dean charged in sworn testimony "that I was fully aware of the cover-up" on Sept. 15, 1972, Mr. Nixon said the transcripts will support his own contention that he first learned of the matter when Mr. Dean told

him about it on March 21, 1973.

At that March 21 meeting, Mr. Dean has charged Mr. Nixon authorized payments of hush money to Watergate defendant E. Howard Hunt, who was threatening to expose "national security" matters. But the President said the transcripts will show that he rejected the idea after first exploring all possibilities with Mr. Dean. "In the course

of considering and just thinking out loud, I several times said that meeting Mr. Hunt's demands might be necessary," Mr. Nixon related. But he added that he traced through where such a course might lead and concluded that "in the end we're going to be bled to death." He said he told his chief of staff H. R. Haldeman that it would all come out anyway and "it will look like a cover-up."

The controversy over the 18-minute gap in a tape of a conversation with Mr. Haldeman also will be "put in context" by the transcripts, Mr. Nixon insisted. Although what caused the gap is "still a mystery," he said, he was "absolutely certain" that it wasn't caused intentionally by his secretary Rose Mary Woods or other White House staff members. He maintained, however, that "if the theory is true that during those 18 minutes Mr. Haldeman and I cooked up some kind of cover-up scheme," the matter surely would have been mentioned in some subsequent conversation.

Mr. Nixon said the transcripts will show that at the March 21 meeting he asked Mr. Dean "more than 150 questions" as he tried to find out the extent of the cover-up and what Mr. Dean knew about it. And he quoted from a transcript that he said has Mr. Dean saying, "I can just tell from our conversation that these are things you have no knowledge of."

## Impeachment Panel Chief Hopes for Report by July

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — Chairman Peter Rodino said he hopes his House Judiciary Committee will be ready to report to the House on impeachment by the end of June.

June 30 is a "reasonable time" by which to expect the panel to decide whether grounds exist to impeach President Nixon, Rep. Rodino told the House yesterday.

He spoke in support of a request for an additional \$979,000 for his committee, of which \$733,000 would be spent on the impeachment inquiry. That would bring the panel's total outlay on its impeachment considerations to \$1,176,000.

Although some Republican members complained that the committee is taking too long with its impeachment study, the House approved the extra funds by a voice vote with only a few "Noes."