

Butler, Hogan Split on Tapes

By Stephen Green

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Maryland and Virginia's representatives on the House Judiciary Committee were split Wednesday over whether President Nixon had complied with a subpoena for 42 Watergate-related White House tapes to aid the committee's impeachment investigation.

"Personally, I don't think the President has complied" by sending the committee edited transcripts of the tapes, said Rep. M. Caldwell Butler (R-Va.), who represents the Roanoke area.

However, Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), who represents Prince George's County, said the releasing of the edited transcripts had placed Mr. Nixon in "substantial compliance."

Despite their differing opinions, both Hogan and Butler unsuccessfully opposed a committee decision to formally state that Mr. Nixon failed to comply with the subpoena.

Butler explained that he opposed the committee's action because "I think it's premature. It's premature because we ought to examine first what the President has sent. We ought to see what the Committee staff thinks it needs in tapes after examining the transcripts and then ask the President to provide those tapes," Butler said.

"Then, I don't think the President would want to be put in the position of obstructing the committee," Butler added.

He explained that he doesn't think Mr. Nixon complied with the subpoena because "the Committee asked for the tapes and didn't get them."

Hogan said the committee's action "was a way to save face for those persons who wanted to cite him (Mr. Nixon) for contempt."

"The action was a little meaningless gesture. I think the President is in substantial compliance," Hogan stated.

In sending the transcripts to the Committee, Mr. Nixon offered to let Committee Chairman Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) and ranking Republican Edward Hutchinson of Michigan listen to the tapes to verify the accuracy of the transcripts.

Hogan urged the Committee to negotiate with the White House so that the Committee's chief counsel, John M. Doar, and the Committee's GOP counsel, Al-

bert Jenner, could listen to the tapes also.

Hogan said, however, that the White House may refuse to let Jenner listen to the tapes because he "is so obviously biased against the President." Other Republicans also have criticized Jenner, even though he was hired to represent the Committee's GOP members in the impeachment investigation.