

## No More Negotiations

# Nixon Is Firm--He Won't Yield Data

## His Lawyer Expects a Showdown

Washington

President Nixon, refusing to provide additional Watergate evidence to either the House Judiciary Committee or the special Watergate prosecutor, yesterday broke off all negotiations on the matter.

The refusal to obey a committee subpoena probably will provoke a constitutional confrontation with Congress, the President's special counsel, James D. St. Clair, acknowledged. But he said he believes any committee vote on impeachment would "stop on the floor of the House of Representatives."

Mr. Nixon's new hard line also is likely to result in a legal fight with special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski that could bring the Supreme Court into the impeachment battle. St. Clair said the President has instructed him to take the case to the Supreme Court if necessary.

St. Clair has said that the President has handed over all relevant tapes, and yesterday he told reporters that the President has instructed him to inform both Jaworski and the Judiciary Committee that no additional information will be provided.

On April 19 the Judiciary Committee requested tapes and other records of 142 conversations dealing with Watergate, as well as with bribery charges involving cam-

national Telephone and Telegraph Corp. and the dairy industry.

The committee already has notified Mr. Nixon it considers him to be in non-compliance with a subpoena to produce tapes of 42 presidential conversations related to the Watergate cover-up.

Instead of sending tapes, Mr. Nixon furnished edited transcripts of some, but not

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all, of the conversations.

After Mr. Nixon's firm refusal to provide additional information, the committee is almost certain to issue an additional subpoena.

The immediate reaction of Republicans as well as Democrats on the committee to St. Clair's announcement was one of dismay.

Representative Thomas F. Railsback (Rep.-Ill.) called the decision "most unfortunate" and said, "It's certain to provoke a confrontation with the Judiciary Committee, the end result of which will certainly be bad for the country as well as the Republican party."

Only Monday St. Clair had indicated that a compromise with Jaworski was in the works, but yesterday St. Clair said the President directed him to tell the prosecutor he would get none of the tapes of the 64 conversations he had subpoenaed.

St. Clair said Mr. Nixon instructed him to proceed with a motion in U.S. District Court to quash the subpoena.

A White House source, who claims no direct knowledge of yesterday's development, theorized that

White House attorneys were sincere Monday in believing they could work out what St. Clair called an "adjustment" on the Jaworski subpoena.

But the President apparently suddenly shut off the matter, the source said.

"We're going to litigate," was the only comment from a Jaworski spokesman.

Jaworski apparently had tried to resolve the matter with St. Clair in hopes of heading off what promises to be a wrenching court battle — akin to the prolonged litigation that culminated in the firing of Jaworski's predecessor, Archibald Cox, last October.

St. Clair spelled out the President's position in a 30-minute briefing with reporters, during which he repeatedly said Mr. Nixon feels he now has told "the whole Watergate story."

Concerning the White House - edited transcripts, St. Clair said "The President made personally each and every decision with respect to what would be taken out of these and left in. It took a great deal of effort on his part because he felt it was his responsibility."

John M. Doar, special counsel to the Judiciary Committee, has said his staff found inaccuracies in the transcripts, based on studies of tapes of some conversations the committee had obtained before issuing its subpoena.

Among 19 tapes turned over to the committee by the White House earlier were several taps of conversations covered in the transcripts, including one of a crucial March 21, 1973, conversation on payment of hush money.

Asked about a report by

one committee source that the March 21 transcript contained inaccuracies on every page, St. Clair said:

"I would doubt that, but they have had the March 21 tape for many weeks now. Listening to a tape is a very difficult problem at best. Whatever variances there are between on listener and another, I'm perfectly confident they do not change the plain, clear meaning of the conversation."

St. Clair said the President is willing to let committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem.-N.J.) and Representative Edward Hutchinson (Rep.-Mich.), the ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee, listen to the tapes to authenticate them.

But St. Clair said Mr. Nixon will refuse any access to the tapes by Doar or minority counsel Albert E. Jenner Jr. because they are not elected officials.

Rodino and other committee members have said that for them to listen to the tapes would be an unsatisfactory arrangement for several reasons, including that as Congressmen they do not have the time to do this. Also, they say, Doar and Jenner are better prepared to listen to the tapes because they have led the investigation.

St. Clair said he is not "in any way indicating an unwillingness to produce more information" on the ITT and dairy industry matters, but that "the principal concern of the American people is Watergate."

He said the committee had been "quite specific" in its requests in the ITT and milk fund areas and the White House is considering the requests. St. Clair said material he considers relevant would be prepared and presented to the President "and I have every confidence he will release it."

St. Clair said that in refusing to comply with a Judiciary committee subpoena, the President would invoke "Confidentiality, executive privilege, whatever form you want to take." But he indicated uncertainty about the constitutionality of such a claim.

Rodino, asked if another subpoena will be issued in view of St. Clair's comments, said, "There's no question at some point we will be considering that question. We've made our position clear in the Past that we can't ever well carry out our responsibilities without the full Watergate information."

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