

# Rodino Unit to Hear Some Nixon Tapes as Hearings Open This Week

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WASHINGTON, May 7—The House Judiciary Committee will hear some of the White House tape recordings when it begins historic hearings later this week on the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

Committee officials said today that six to eight hours of the President's recorded conversations about the Watergate case would be played for the committee members during the first four days of the hearings.

The impeachment inquiry staff obtained 19 recordings in March from the White House and the Watergate grand jury. Among them is a copy of the original tape of the President's crucial meeting on March 21, 1973, with John W. Dean 3d, the former White House legal counsel. ♦

## Negotiate With White House

But the committee, whose lawyers resumed private negotiations with the White House today over access to evidence, has been unable to obtain the tapes of about 172 more Presidential conversations.

The committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, said that the opening phase of the hearings would have to be different than planned because of the White House refusal to supply information sought for the inquiry.

Mr. Rodino announced that the hearings would begin Thursday afternoon with statements by the members in a public session. He said the panel would then go into closed-door meetings for four days to receive from its staff evidence focused on the June 17, 1972, Watergate burglary and the subsequent cover-up attempt.



United Press International

Representative John Conyers Jr., Michigan Democrat, discussing his reding of edited White House tape transcripts. He said he was convinced that President Nixon had committed "an impeachable act," referring to discussions of payments to Watergate defendants.

The break-in occurred at the matters other than the Watergate headquarters of the Democratic gate case that have been under National Committee in the investigation.

Originally, the committee staff had planned to present a general view of the entire impeachment inquiry, which involves nearly three dozen

John M. Doar and Albert E. Jenner Jr.

The President refused last week to comply with the panel's April 11 subpoena of tapes of 42 Watergate-related conversations and instead supplied, and made public, the edited transcripts of 31 of the conversations for which the White House said tapes could be found.

Mr. St. Clair told newsmen this afternoon that the committee's request April 19 for 75 more Watergate-related tapes would be rejected, but that some consideration might be given to the request April 19 for 66 additional tapes bearing on the President's political relations with milk producers and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

Mr. Rodino has said that the early completion of the House inquiry would depend on cooperation by the White House. He reportedly told members of the Democratic Study Group, an organization of liberal Democratic Congressmen, that he expected the inquiry to be completed around July 15—nearly a month later than had been expected.

## Rotating TV Coverage

A spokesman for CBS Inc. announced in New York that the three commercial television networks would rotate live coverage of the impeachment hearings when they enter a public phase, expected to begin May 21. The statement was issued on behalf of the American Broadcasting Companies, the National Broadcasting Company and CBS.

The Public Broadcasting Service plans 4gavel-to-gavel coverage of the open impeach-

ment hearings, but officials of the Public Television Network said that a decision had not yet been made whether the telecasts would be live or videotaped for later prime-time airing.

As the committee prepared to begin hearings that could determine the President's future, some of its members continued to complain about the committee staff.

Representative John Conyers Jr., Democrat of Michigan, who is a leading critic of the President, said that Mr. Doar appeared too willing to abandon some aspects of the inquiry without a thorough investigation of allegations of wrongdoing by Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Conyers said the edited White House transcripts contained evidence that the President had obstructed the Watergate investigation—"which the Congressman said was "clearly an 'impeachable act'"—and again urged that the committee cite Mr. Nixon for contempt for refusing to supply the tapes on which the transcripts were based.

Meanime, Representative Lawrence J. Hogan, Republican of Maryland, sought without apparent success to persuade colleagues on the panel to demand the resignation of Mr. Jenner, the chief Republican counsel. Mr. Hogan charged more like an assistant Democratic counsel.

But representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the ranking Republican of the committee, dismissed Mr. Hogan's effort, calling it "foolhard" to dismiss such an able and distinguished counsel on the eve of the presentation of evidence to the committee."