

# House Panel Expected to Consider a New Subpoena

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WASHINGTON, May 10—The House Judiciary Committee will consider next week issuing a new subpoena for tapes of some of President Nixon's Watergate conversations, according to well-placed Congressional officials.

The officials said that Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., the committee chairman, planned to interrupt three days of closed hearings in the impeachment inquiry on evidence related to the Watergate burglary and its cover-up to hold a meeting at which the question of a new subpoena would be raised.

Mr. Rodino, a New Jersey Democrat, told other Democratic members of the committee this week that he favored issuing subpoenas regularly throughout the hearings as gaps appeared in the evidence already obtained from the White House and other sources.

The first such gap reportedly appeared during the committee's closed session yesterday. John M. Doar, special counsel to the impeachment inquiry, is said to have told the members that the tape of an April 4, 1972, meeting that the President had with H. R. Haldeman and

John N. Mitchell might show whether Mr. Nixon was told then about the over-all political intelligence-gathering scheme that led to the Watergate break-in.

## Subpoena Likely

Officials said that the committee would almost certainly subpoena the tape of that meeting, at which the President apparently discussed the election campaign with Mr. Haldeman, then his chief of staff, and Mr. Mitchell, then campaign director.

Jeb S. Magruder, the deputy campaign director, told the Senate Watergate committee last year that on March 30, 1972—five days before the April 4 meeting—Mr. Mitchell approved a plan devised by G. Gordon Liddy for electronic surveillance of the President's political opponents and a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex.

Mr. Magruder testified that he called Gordon C. Strachan, an aide to Mr. Haldeman, and told him that the Liddy plan had been approved.

Mr. Strachan told the Watergate committee that after hearing from Mr. Magruder, he sent Mr. Haldeman a memorandum

testified that before the April 4 meeting, he prepared a "talking paper" for Mr. Haldeman's Liddy plan.

Mr. Haldeman, however, testified that he did not remember having read Mr. Strachan's memorandum or talking paper and that his notes of the April 4 meeting contained no mention of a discussion of any eavesdropping scheme.

Mr. Nixon has denied having known of Mr. Liddy's operation before the break-in occurred, and the edited transcripts of the tapes of Watergate meetings that he made public last week indicate that he expressed surprise when he

## Refused to Yield

The tape of the April 4, 1972, meeting was among those of 75 Watergate-related conversations that the Judiciary Committee asked the White House for last April 19. President Nixon has refused to turn over those tapes or any further evidence about the Watergate case.

According to the transcript of a March 27, 1973, meeting of the President, Mr. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, the former domestic counselor, Mr. Nixon referred to the first time he heard of the Watergate break-in on June 17, 1973.

"Of all the people who was surprised on the 17th of June—I was in Florida—was me," the President told his top aides.

At an earlier meeting, on March 13, 1973, with John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, Mr. Dean remarked that the Watergate burglars never obtained any intelligence information.

"A dry hole?" the President asked.

"That's right," Mr. Dean replied.

Then the President uttered an "expletive," which was deleted from the transcript.

The President went on to say, "Bob [Haldeman] one time said something to me about something, this or that or something, but I think it was something about the convention. I think it was about the convention problems they were planning something."

In the context of the discussion with Mr. Dean, it appears that the President might have been talking about an intelligence plan in that remark.

But then, speaking of the burglary, the President said, "That was such a stupid thing." And then he remarked:

"To think of Mitchell and Bob would have allowed—would have allowed—this kind of operation to in the campaign committee."