

## TRANSCRIPT VALID, WHITE HOUSE SAYS

Defends Varied Versions of  
Nixon and Petersen Talk

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WASHINGTON, May 14—The White House admitted today that differing versions of the same conversation had appeared in its edited Watergate transcript, but reiterated its assertion that the transcript gave the full substance of the tape recordings from which they were taken.

At a White House news briefing today, the deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, was asked about the two versions of a conversation between President Nixon and Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen on April 16, 1973. The two versions, which appear on adjacent pages in the transcript released by the White House on April 30, contain significant differences in words and phrases.

Mr. Warren said that while transcribing the tape recording White House secretaries had gone "over and over the various portions of the transcripts to pull out all the words possible . . . What apparently happened is that one of the revisions was just added onto one of the earlier versions," in the transcript released two weeks ago.

### 'Substance Is There'

The spokesman contended, however, that "the substance of the tapes is there."

He also said that the full tape recordings of eight "key" Watergate conversations had been turned over to the special Watergate prosecutor's office and to the House Judiciary Committee and that there had been no complaints of any major discrepancies between the tapes and the transcripts.

Mr. Warren pointed out that the President had invited the chairman and ranking Republican on the House committee to listen to the tapes if they so desired.

Questioners at the briefing asked if the discrepancies on the Nixon-Petersen conversation bore out complaints by some members of Congress that the transcripts were inadequate in conveying accurately the contents of the tape. Mr. Warren insisted that the transcripts were adequate.

"I think it's obvious that the transcripts provide a great amount of evidence," he said.

The committee had subpoenaed the tape recordings of more than 40 White House conversations as part of its impeachment inquiry. Mr. Nixon declined to release the tapes but instead provided the transcripts, which cover only 31 of the conversations sought in the subpoena.

The committee, in a partisan vote, declared that the transcripts failed to meet the requirements of the subpoena.