

Ford, Nixon Confer At the White House

Associated Press

President Nixon and Vice President Gerald R. Ford conferred at the White House yesterday, but spokesmen refused to disclose what was discussed.

White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, announcing the meeting, said the session was "one of the meetings the President and Vice President have from time to time to discuss many issues ... They like to get together when they can."

Wednesday, ^{22 MAY} in Wilmington, Del., Ford said he hopes President Nixon will give the House Judiciary Committee any additional material relevant to impeachment, and "the sooner the better."

However, in expressing that hope Wednesday night to a Republican rally, Ford didn't define who would decide whether the material is relevant.

In a similar statement earlier Wednesday in New York, the Vice President said he hoped "there will be some compromise with the White House" for any material needed by Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski relating to criminal prosecutions.

But again, the Vice President didn't say who would decide what is relevant.

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica has given the White House until May 31 to turn over 64 Watergate-related tapes Jaworski says he needs for the trials of top former Nixon aides accused of the Watergate cover-up. However, the White House has indicated it won't comply, but will appeal the case.

Ford's statements, urging a compromise without specifying how it would be achieved, were coupled with repeated insistence that Mr. Nixon is innocent and won't be impeached.

Ford noted that the White House already had supplied 19 tapes and more than 1,300 pages of transcripts.

He added: "They probably will get some more tapes." An aide to the Vice President later said this comment was based on speculation rather than advance information.

"If they want any more that's relevant to the issues, to the impeachable offenses in the Constitution, I hope the President will give it to them, the sooner the better," Ford said.