

Judiciary Panel

Stiff Warning To Nixon Is Being Written

Washington

Lawyers for the House Judiciary Committee are drafting a letter warning President Nixon that his refusal to honor impeachment inquiry subpoenas risks the eventual conclusion that the President is withholding incriminating evidence.

The proposed letter — in effect a warning to the President that his defiance of the judiciary committee increases the prospects of his impeachment — will be presented to the panel tomorrow, according to officials close to the inquiry.

The plan to send Mr. Nixon the strongly worded letter became known as Republicans and Democrats on the committee met separately in private to consider their options for dealing with the President's refusal last week to honor two subpoenas.

Several Democrats on the panel said that they would prefer to deal more firmly with the President by asking the full House to cite him

formally for contempt of Congress.

A few Republicans, on the other hand, urged that the judiciary committee file legal papers to join as a friend of the court in the Watergate special prosecutor's request for a Supreme Court ruling that Mr. Nixon has no right to withhold Watergate-related evidence.

But members of the committee said they believe the only course of action likely to produce a bipartisan majority would be to send the stiffly phrased letter to the President.

Committee members, pre-

paring to resume closed impeachment hearings today, also discussed at their separate caucuses whether to subpoena additional materials from the White House.

Several Democrats said that the committee lawyers — John M. Doar, the special counsel, and Albert E. Jenner Jr., the chief Republican counsel — would propose tomorrow that the committee issue a new subpoena for tape recordings of 65 more Watergate related conversations.

On a separate issue, the decision on whether to disclose publicly material that the committee has examined at its closed hearings on the alleged Watergate coverup, the Republicans and Democrats appeared to be divided.

Representative Laurence J. Hogan (Rep - Md.) said against disclosure of the

in the Republican meeting defendants in pending Watergate confidential information because it might pose a risk of jeopardizing the rights of defendant John F. Seiberling of Ohio, Watergate criminal trials.

However, a Democratic member, Representative John F. Seiberling of Ohio, said, after the Democrats' caucus ended, that the committee majority appeared prepared to release most of the private information, perhaps as early as next week.

The White House has urged that all of the evidence presented to the committee be made public.

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