

Nixon Aide Denies Strategy of 'Delay'

Washington

A White House spokesman denied yesterday that President Nixon is employing delaying tactics to thwart impeachment proceedings now under way in Congress.

The denial was made by deputy press secretary Gerald Warren amid mounting criticism of the President's refusal to turn over subpoenaed Watergate materials and of his effort to block an immediate Supreme Court ruling on the demand by Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski for access to White House tape recordings.

At a White House news briefing, Warren was asked about a charge made yesterday by Senate Democratic whip Robert Byrd of West Virginia that the President has adopted a strategy of "delay, delay, delay," as part of his impeachment defense.

Warren replied that the office of the White House counsel is considering "each issue on its merits," but added that this is not a delaying tactic.

When asked if the White

House still wants the impeachment process to be carried out expeditiously, Warren said "we feel the impeachment proceedings should be conducted at an appropriately fast pace."

The White House has generally resisted requests for documents, tape recordings and other evidence made by the special prosecutor's office, the House Judiciary Committee — which is conducting the impeachment inquiry — the Senate Watergate committee and other investigative bodies involved in the Watergate burglary and matters related to the Watergate affair.

Warren said the President's refusal to turn over materials should not be taken as an inference of guilt. Such an inference, he said, is "against our system."

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