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NIXON AIDE DENIES
STRATEGY OF DELAY

Defends Counsel's Practice
of Studying Each Issue

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
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WASHINGTON, May 29—
A White House spokesman denied today that President Nixon was employing delaying tactics to thwart impeachment proceedings now under way in Congress.

The denial was made by Gerald L. Warren, the deputy press secretary, 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 a demand by Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, for access to White House tape recordings.

At a White House news briefing, Mr. Warren was asked about a charge made today by Senator Robert N. Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic whip, that Mr. Nixon had adopted a strategy of "delay, delay, delay" as part of his impeachment defense.

Mr. Warren replied that the office of the White House counsel was considering "each issue on its merits," and added that such consideration was not a delaying tactic.

Asked if the White House still wanted the impeachment process to be carried out expeditiously, Mr. Warren replied, "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, and the Senate Watergate committee and other investigative bodies involved in the Watergate affair.

White House lawyers have repeatedly opposed the submission of such evidence until all legal delays were exhausted or they were forced to act be-

cause of public pressure. Mr. Nixon has said on a number of occasions that he had resisted demands for evidence to protect confidentiality of the Presidency.

Material Held

Recently, the President has declined to turn over materials related to campaign donations by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation and milk producers as well as evidence bearing on the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist. Mr. Nixon has also refused to turn over 64 tape recordings subpoenaed by Mr. Jaworski and materials subpoenaed by the Judiciary Committee on May 15.

At today's briefing, Mr. Warren said that the President's refusal to release these materials should not be taken as an inference of guilt on the part of the President. Such an inference, he said, is "against our system."

Mr. Warren also questioned what he said was the assumption by questioners at the briefing that the material the President had declined to turn over "evidence," implying that the materials were not relevant to the impeachment proceedings in the view of the White House.

Mr. Warren repeated the White House assertion that the release of "selected materials" to the public by the Judiciary Committee was "clearly prejudicial" to the President's case, and he added that it would be better if "the full record in made public."

Senator Byrd said to a group of reporters today that "an apparent strategy of delay" being employed by the President's lawyers raised the possibility that an impeachment trial in the Senate "could very well spill over into 1975."

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic majority leader, said in an interview that he also believed there was "a good possibility" that a Senate trial would carry into a new year.