

Waldie Says Tape Reveals 'Slurs'

By Bob Kuttner

Washington Post Staff Writer

A member of the House Judiciary Committee who has listened to taped presidential conversations said yesterday that President Nixon had definitely used "ethnic slurs" on at least one occasion.

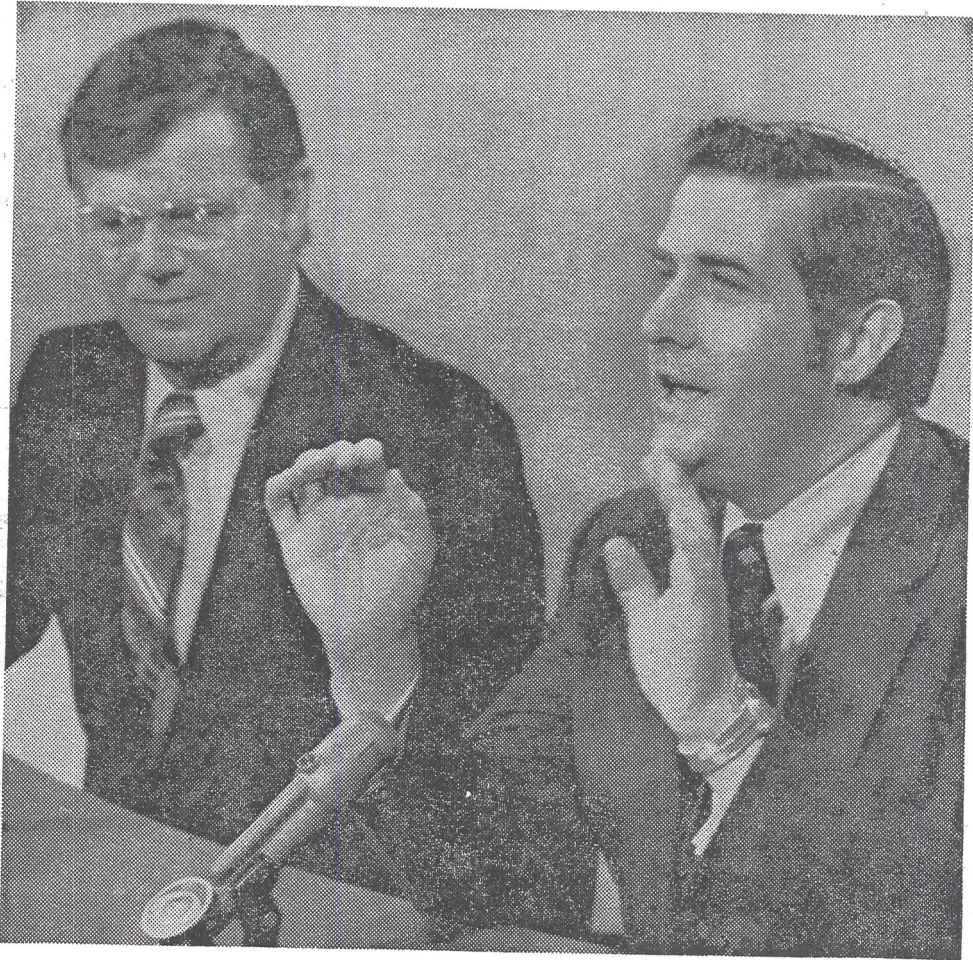
Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) said the tape of Mr. Nixon's Feb. 28, 1973, conversation with then-White House counsel John W. Dean III contains "ethnic references that were in the nature of a slur."

News reports last month that the President had made defamatory references to Jews and Italians were categorically denied by White House counsel J. Fred Buzhardt May 12.

However, after hearing the Feb. 28 tape Waldie termed the Buzhardt denial "only an indication to me that Mr. Buzhardt's insensitivity is gross." In a statement issued late yesterday, Buzhardt charged Waldie with "imaginative hypersensitivity," and characterized Waldie's remarks as "an attempt to divert attention from the inability of the committee to find substantive evidence of an impeachable offense."

Waldie, appearing on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP), said that although the slurs had been deleted from the transcript of the tape, he had exercised his option to listen to the uncensored tape, in accordance with committee procedures. Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), appearing with Waldie, said he had not bothered to listen to the tape because he considers the question of ethnic slurs "a red herring" unrelated to the impeachment charges.

Waldie, a liberal Demo-



Associated Press

Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) and Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), both of the House Judiciary Committee, chat with newsmen before appearing on a Sunday talk show.

crat, was an early advocate of impeachment; Hogan, a Republican, has been a White House ally.

Waldie would not elaborate on the nature of the President's remarks. A New York Times report May 12, citing "highly reliable sources," described comments by Mr. Nixon on Feb. 28 about a "network" of Jews in government and me-

dia. Reportedly, the President made other defamatory references to Jews and Italians in a conversation March 20, 1973. The White House has refused to give the Judiciary Committee a tape of that conversation.

Waldie said the committee should make public all the tapes it has because "the President has already breached confidence by re-

leasing to the public a sanitized and edited version."

Both Hogan and Waldie agreed that if Mr. Nixon is impeached, he is most likely to be charged with obstruction of justice in connection with the Watergate cover-up, rather than the broader Watergate-related incidents such as the milk deal, ITT, campaign sabotage or the "plumbers" operation. The

committee has not yet heard evidence on those matters.

Hogan recommended that the committee stay in session five or six days a week to complete its deliberations by early July. "There's no reason why we should only meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, which has been the case so far."

Mondale Sees Nixon Dictating to Congress

United Press International

Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.) said yesterday that if lawmakers allow President Nixon to dictate the definition and scope of impeachment, it could drastically reduce the effectiveness of Congress.

Mondale said that—as a potential juror if the impeachment process reaches the Senate for trial—he cannot make a judgment as to the President's guilt or innocence. But, he added, "I cannot remain silent on the question of access to evidence essential to an impeachment inquiry."

Through the White House's "stonewalling" approach to the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry, Mondale said, Mr. Nixon is seeking to impose on Congress his own

definition of an impeachable offense and his own determination of what evidence may be used in the impeachment investigation.

"If Mr. Nixon's view of impeachment is accepted, either through congressional acquiescence or congressional indifference, impeachment becomes a sunken ship on the constitutional waters," Mondale said. "Impeachment becomes nothing more than an empty gesture, subject to executive veto."