

## Hot Attack on Tapes Leaks

Washington

A White House aide said yesterday that "Nixon-hating partisans" are leaking slanderous innuendo about the President from the House Judiciary Committee's secret impeachment hearings. He demanded that the hearings be opened "to the sunshine of truth."

White House communications director, Ken W. Clawson, issued a scathing attack on the committee and its leaders, following publica-

tion of another memo on impeachment evidence. Clawson called the proceedings a "charade" and "a trial-by-innuendo."

Shortly before Clawson summoned newsmen to the White House, a congressional aide disclosed that the author of those memos, William P. Dixon, was a presidential campaign aide to Senator George S. McGovern in 1972.

Clawson hit that point when he singled out Dixon

as one of those bent on "slandering" Mr. Nixon.

"The new leak, once again based on a one-sided analysis by Mr. William Dixon of the Judiciary Committee staff — a McGovern campaign worker in 1972 — shows clearly that the Judiciary Committee in general and (chairman Peter W.) Rodino in particular intend to do nothing about this trial by innuendo," Clawson said.

"This spectacle has gotten

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out of hand just as it is apparent that Mr. Rodino has allowed his committee to get out of hand," Clawson said.

"It is time to stop the leaks. It is time to open these closed-door proceedings to the sunshine of truth."

The Dixon memo that provided the basis for yesterday's Washington Post story said the White House-edited transcripts of presidential tapes had dropped quotations that might link Mr. Nixon more strongly to an impeachable role in the Watergate coverup.

The memo quoted portions of the tapes themselves — quotations partially reprinted by the newspaper — in which Mr. Nixon supposedly told aides he was "planning to assume some culpability" for the payment of hush money to Watergate defendants. That phrase did not appear in the transcripts.

Dixon wrote 14 such memos, reviewing and interpreting impeachment evidence,

at the request of Democratic committee members who wanted clarification and

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perspective on the voluminous material before them. Eight of Dixon's memos subsequently were leaked to newsmen.

Clawson did not specifically say who he thought had been responsible for the leaks, but he referred to reports indicating Representative Jerome Waldie (Dem-Calif.) had asked Dixon to write the memos and pointed out that Waldie has said he thought Mr. Nixon had committed impeachable offenses.

The Dixon memos infuriated Republican committee members and some of the panel's Democratic leaders alike. Rodino forbade any more such memos and assured Republicans they, too, could see those already written.

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