

Ervin View on Transcript

Washington

Some members of the Senate Watergate Committee said yesterday President Nixon's "cover up" remark in the House Judiciary Committee's version of the March 22, 1973, White House tape was supported by testimony they had previously heard.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), chairman of the committee, said the transcript released by the Judiciary Committee was "in perfect harmony with the testimony we received, which showed that the same presidential advisers met in February in California about how to deal with the committee.

"They concluded that they would be publicly in favor of the committee's investigation, but would do everything they could to impede and obstruct the investigation," Ervin told reporters.

Mr. Nixon is quoted in the Judiciary transcript as telling his associates: "I want you all to stonewall it, let them plead the Fifth Amendment, cover up or anything else, if it'll save it — save the plan."

Senator Lowell P. Weicker (Rep-Conn.), another member of the Watergate committee, said: "We expect the President to lead in the quest for the truth."

"All you have to do is refer to that part of (former White House counsel John) Dean's testimony which describes (Mr. Nixon's aides) meeting at La Costa, Calif., on how to handle Watergate," Weicker said.

"They (the aides) took the stance of publicly cooperating with the committee but trying to footdrag in private."

Another committee member, Senator Daniel Inouye (Dem-Hawaii), remarked as he read a wire story on the tape: "Good Lord."

Asked to characterize the transcript, Senator Howard Baker (Rep-Tenn.), the Watergate committee's vice chairman, said: "He (Mr. Nixon) just did."