

ST. CLAIR SILENT ON OBEYING COURT

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Will Not Say Whether Nixon
Would Obey Tapes Ruling
—Meets With President

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LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., July 22—James D. St. Clair, who met with President Nixon in private today, refused under repeated questioning tonight to say whether the President would obey a Supreme Court order to turn subpoenaed evidence over to the special Water-gate prosecutor.

Mr. St. Clair, the President's chief defense attorney, reiterated that it would not be proper to put pressure on the Supreme Court before it reached its decision.

At a news conference this evening, Mr. St. Clair said that the House of Representatives should not put the "burden" of an impeachment trial upon the American people unless "the evidence is clear."

He repeated the argument in the brief he sent to the House Judiciary Committee last week, that the evidence before the committee did not sustain the charges against the President recommended by the committee's chief counsel, John M. Doar.

Mr. St. Clair also made the following points:

¶He said he had written to Mr. Doar asking that he be allowed to present the President's case in the public hearings to be conducted by the Committee later this week.

¶He disagreed with the new minority counsel of the committee, Samuel A. Garrison 3d, who is recommending that, even if the evidence suggested com-

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and by restricting the supply of money.

plcity by the President, the House should not impeach the President unless it felt his ouster was in the "best interests" of the country.

¶He said that the statement of the President to the then White House counsel, John W. Dean 3d, in a March 21, 1973, conversation, telling him to "get it," did not refer to blackmail payments. However, he said he did not know what those words did refer to; he said he never asked the President.

¶In discussing his refusal to say whether the President would obey a Supreme Court decision, Mr. St. Clair argued that not the courts but only the House of Representatives, through an impeachment, could have jurisdiction over the activities of a President.

Mr. St. Clair charged that Mr. Doar and Albert E. Jenner Jr., former minority counsel on the Judiciary Committee, had abandoned their impartiality in the impeachment proceeding and had taken on the role of prosecutor.

In Washington, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the Judiciary Committee, told reporters that the committee's rules would not permit Mr. St. Clair to take part in the committee proceedings later this week, when the panel debates the proposed articles of impeachment. Mr. St. Clair did take part when the committee heard the presentation of evidence.

Mr. Rodino, a New Jersey Democrat, said, "Mr. St. Clair has no further role. We gave him every opportunity. We bent over backwards."

The President met privately with Mr. St. Clair for two hours this morning in the study of Mr. Nixon's private home in San Clemente.

The White House also announced today that Mr. Nixon would make a "major address" on the economy Thursday in Los Angeles.

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said at a news briefing today that the address would deal chiefly with "the fight against inflation." He reiterated that the President regarded inflation as the nation's No. 1 problem.

New Policies Doubted

The President will speak at 4:30 P.M. Pacific daylight time (7:30 P.M. Eastern daylight time) at the Century Plaza Hotel at a meeting sponsored by a group of California Chambers of Commerce and merchants' and manufacturers' associations.

Recent statements by the President's economic advisers have seemed to indicate that the President would announce no sweeping new policies. According to these statements, Mr. Nixon is determined to continue to try to control inflation by reducing Federal spending as much as possible

and by restricting the supply of money.

The President is expected to discuss how he proposes to implement this policy.

After the speech, three of the President's advisers—Kenneth Rush, his counselor for economic policy; Roy L. Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget; and Herbert Stein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers—will answer questions from the businessmen attending the meeting. The President will not stay to take questions.

Meeting on the Economy

On Wednesday, Mr. Nixon will hold a meeting with businessmen and economists to discuss the nation's economic problems. It is the second such meeting this month. He held a similar meeting at the White House on July 11.

Mr. Warren confirmed that, as at the first meeting, no labor or consumer representatives would be present to give their views. Mr. Warren said that labor "input" was coming through the President's advisers.

He also said that the Wednesday meeting was part of a series and that labor and consumer representatives could be expected to attend later sessions. But he could not say when such meetings would be held, or who would be invited.

In reply to a question, Mr. Warren said "I do not think it is blatantly one-sided" to have only business represented at meetings with the President on the economy.

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