

Price

8/3/74

Aug 3
Speech

Good evening.

Since the decision by the Supreme Court 12 days ago, ordering me to turn over to the District Court the 64 ~~recorded~~ taped conversations subpoenaed by the Special Prosecutor, I have been in the process of reviewing personally a large number of subpoenaed Presidential conversations, ~~in addition~~ and my counsel have also been conducting their own review.

During this process, a great deal of my time and effort ~~has~~ has been focused on it.

Questions have arisen about my intentions -- about whether there is a strategy, and about what I am going to do.

I have requested this television and radio time in order to bring you up to date on my current plans.

I am very conscious of the erosion that has taken place in the political base that I would need to sustain my position in the House of Representatives. It does appear now that impeachment ~~is~~ will be voted by the House, and that the issue will proceed to a trial in the Senate.

As a practical matter,
I accept the virtual certainty of that development, and ~~of~~

~~therefore~~ I am therefore proceeding on the assumption ~~that~~ that the
issue will ~~be~~ be finally resolved in the Senate.

In reviewing the 64 tapes covered by the Special Prosecutors
subpoena, I have found, with one exception, that they ~~add nothing~~
support what I said on April 29 when ~~a~~ I announced my decision to
make the original transcripts public: ~~x~~ that the evidence already
turned over to the House Judiciary Committee tells the full story
of Watergate, in so far as the President's personal knowledge or
involvement is concerned. With this one exception, they add nothing
~~as~~ significant or substantial. ~~xxxxxx~~

The one exception is a conversation that I held with H.R.

Because this may represent a significant
Haldeman on June 23, 1972. In order to complete the record before
addition to the Watergate story, I have instructed my attorney to
the House, I ~~had~~ ~~have~~ have ordered that this tape be furnished to
make it available immediately to the House) ... in order to complete
the Judiciary Committee tonight. All 64, of course, are also being
the
~~xxxxxx~~ turned over to Judge Sirica, in accordance with the order of
before
the Supreme Court. *the 14*
As these become public, which they ~~will~~ undoubtedly
be
will in the course of the various trials for which they were subpoenaed,
the
I am confident that the truth of what I have said about them will be
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evident.

The tape that I am furnishing the House committee is of a conversation with Mr. Haldeman concerning the C.I.A. and the F.B.I.

In my statement about Watergate on May 22, 1973, and in subsequent comments, I ~~said that in this conversation~~ discussed this conversation -- ~~six~~ on June 23, six days after the break-in -- in terms that I ~~kn~~ now find to be erroneous, or at least incomplete. In these statements, I said that I was concerned that because several former C.I.A. personnel were involved in the break-in, the investigation might uncover unrelated covert activities of the C.I.A.; and also that ~~because of Mr. Hunt's involvement, it might uncover some of the~~ ~~sensitive~~ because Mr. Hunt was not ~~only~~ only a former ~~of~~ C.I.A. operative but ~~also~~ had also been a member of the so-called "plumbers," ~~that~~ the investigation might reveal details of what I considered highly sensitive national security matters the plumbers had worked on. Therefore, I said, I gave instructions that the F.B.I. should be ~~also~~ alerted to coordinate ~~a~~ with the C.I.A., and to ensure that the investigation stayed ~~out~~ ^{not expose} of sensitive national security areas. (made)

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

That ~~May 22~~ statement of May 22, 1973 was based on my best documentary materials and to recollection at the time, in addition to/sworn testimony by the various people involved.

In reviewing the tape, it is now clear that Mr. Haldeman and I did discuss the political aspects of the situation, and that we were fully aware of the advantages this course of action would have ~~was~~ with respect to limiting possible public exposure of involvement by persons connected with the re-election committee.

I deeply regret that because my previous statements were made without benefit of having reviewed the tape, they were inaccurate.

I did begin a review of the 64 subpoenaed tapes, including this one, in May of this year, but then postponed it pending ^{completing the} decision by

the Supreme Court. I now recognize this ~~postponement~~ ¹ as having been a grievous mistake, because ~~it~~ as a result my counsel, my staff, and

~~the members of the Judiciary~~ those who advocated my position within the Judiciary

Committee did so on the basis of facts that were incomplete.

To put that June 23 conversation in perspective, however, I do

In the course of this particular review I listened to this tape, but did not focus on it thoroughly. I did not at that time consider it inconsistent with my position. I have now made a

my staff or counsel about my possible concern with it.