

'Transcripts inadequate'

WASHINGTON—Drawing new criticism from the White House, House Judiciary Committee leaders said Thursday the transcripts President Nixon provided for their impeachment inquiry were "inadequate," "unsatisfactory" and contained too many misstatements, omissions and errors.

Apparently frustrated by Nixon's adamant refusal to supply any more Watergate evidence under subpoena, Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., and counsel John M. Doar and Albert E. Jenner

said the committee uncovered a number of differences between the 1,300-page White House-edited transcripts of presidential conversations and some of the actual tapes.

"I had a responsibility to say to the members that I, on reflection, felt that the transcripts in a constitutional process were inadequate, were unsatisfactory," Doar told a news conference after the committee ended its seventh day of closed impeachment hearings.

At the White House, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler criticized the committee

for leaking information presented in its closed sessions to the press, and renewed his demand for the impeachment inquiry to be opened to the public.

Ziegler said Doar's complaint could be easily resolved if Rodino and Rep. Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the committee's ranking Republican, were to accept Nixon's offer to listen to the actual tapes. The offer did not include Doar, Jenner or the other committee members.

"It's time the proceedings begin to concentrate on substance and in accordance with the committee's rules and not on the basis of press releases," Ziegler said. "Certain members of the committee and staff have chosen to proceed in a way that is less than responsible which leads to unfairness and a violation of due process."

Doar said the committee should return to its original demand that the White House surrender the actual tapes of the transcribed conversations.

Mideast compromise could break deadlock

DAMASCUS—Secretary of State Henry Kissinger explored Thursday whether a new American proposal could break the deadlock on the last two major issues blocking the way to a military disengagement between Israel and Syria.

Kissinger, accompanied by his wife Nancy, flew in from Israel and gave a formal lunch for Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam and other officials before starting his talks with President Hafez Assad.

A high American official said the secretary should be able to judge after his meeting with Assad whether a new Kissinger plan would have a chance. Earlier, Kissinger had a "very

good discussion" on the deadlocked issues with Prime Minister Golda Meir and her ministers in Israel.

If Kissinger believes a new American proposal will work, he plans to present it to the Israelis Friday morning and bring it back to Syria Friday afternoon. If he believes he can find no basis for an American compromise proposal, the official said, the secretary will register the progress he has made in nearly four weeks of trying.

The key issues now in dispute are a thinning out of forces along the cease-fire line and the number of United Nations troops to be placed there to police the agreement.

Syrian sources said Syria was concerned about the defense of Damascus if it thinned out its troops.

Syria is not willing to accept so far the number of U.N. troops Israel believes are necessary. The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* said Israel wanted 3,000 U.N. troops and Syria only a few hundred.

Defense lawyer requests delay

WASHINGTON—Defense lawyers asked U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell Thursday to dismiss charges in the Ellsberg break-in case—or delay or move the trial—because of "massive prejudicial pretrial publicity."

Gesell hinted one solution might be to increase substantially the number of preemptory challenges allowed the lawyers in jury selection. He asked both the defense and the prosecution whether they would object to this, and both sides said no.

Gesell concluded four days of oral arguments on motions leading up to the trial.

Gesell said he would rule on motions involving national security Friday morning, and urged all lawyers to be present Friday at 2 p.m. EDT when his subpoena of President Nixon for the personal files of defendants John D. Ehrlichman and Charles W. Colson comes due.

The White House did not say whether it would comply. Chief Watergate counsel James D. St. Clair said his staff was "studying the situation."

Lower speeds reduce fatalities

WASHINGTON — The head of the National Highway Traffic Administration said Thursday preliminary figures for April show a 22.6 per cent reduction in traffic deaths from a year ago — a continuation of the trend brought by lower speed limits.

With the Memorial Day weekend approaching, Dr. James D. Gregory said, "We have a real opportunity this year to have stellar reduction in highway fatality injuries."

Last Memorial Day weekend 539 persons were killed during the three day period — generally a dangerous period on the highway because it is the first long weekend of warm weather. Gregory said a good goal this year would be a death toll below 400.

Gregory said that preliminary figures for April showed a reduction in traffic fatalities from 4,448 in April last year to an estimated 3,444 in April this year.

During January and February the decline in traffic fatalities was about 23 per cent from corresponding months in 1973 and in March it was down 26 per cent from the previous March.

Lower speed limits were put into effect last year to help fight the energy crisis.



Portuguese official praises rebel leaders

LISBON — Foreign Minister Mario Soares Thursday praised leaders of the rebel movements in Portugal's three African territories as "men of great stature" and appealed to white settlers to accept self-determination of the three lands.

Soares said self-determination for the territories would safeguard the settlers' interests and assure a future for their children. Soares made the statement on the eve of his departure for London where he will meet Guinea rebel leaders for the first official peace talks in the 13-year-old African bush wars.

Israelis capture six Arab guerrillas

TEL AVIV — Israel said Thursday its soldiers killed six Arab guerrillas and captured two more who infiltrated into the Golan Heights from Syria for an apparent attempt at another massacre of Israeli civilians.

One of the captured guerrillas, Abdulah el-Mehdi, said he was ordered to capture dwellings and hostages at the Israeli kibbutzim of Ein Gev and Haon, on the east shore of the Sea of Galilee. He and his comrades planned to blow up themselves and their captives if the demands were not met.

Soviet Union sends arms to Egypt

CAIRO — The Soviet Union has resumed arms shipments to Egypt following a lapse of more than six months, diplomatic sources reported Thursday.

The type and quantity of the new weapons were not known, but deliveries already have started, according to the reports.

Sadat criticized the Soviet Union in an April 18 speech for failing to act on Egyptian arms requests made last November. He said four messages he had sent to Moscow concerning the requests had gone unheeded.

Fuel and food supplies short in Belfast

BELFAST — Fuel and food supplies dwindled in Northern Ireland Thursday, bringing the British province close to paralysis on the eighth day of a Protestant general strike.

Little violence was reported, as 16,500 British troops were kept on routine patrols. But gas for cooking and heating was cut off and the city had no electric power.

The few gas stations open have had no deliveries of gasoline since Friday.

Scott dumbfounded at aide's poll

WASHINGTON—Sen. William Scott, R-Va., denied Thursday that he is the dumbest member of Congress.

A magazine, *New Times*, recently published an article based on a poll of congressional aides asking them to rank

members of Congress in a series of categories. Scott was voted "the dumbest."

"There is no element of truth anywhere," said Scott during an informal meeting with reporters. "It's all entirely false or it's all twisted."

Scott said he is considering filing a libel suit against the magazine but has not made a decision yet. He said the element of malice, crucial to libel suits, is "hard to prove."

"I don't want to bring a suit that I don't win because somebody might think it (the article) is true if I don't win," said Scott.

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Nixon plans Moscow trip

WASHINGTON—President Nixon discussed his forthcoming Moscow Summit trip with eight Soviet parliamentarians Thursday. White House spokesmen rejected arguments in some quarters that Nixon should not go while under an impeachment cloud.

White House officials said Nixon fully intends to make the trip to Moscow around June 21 and said the President expressed "the value of such visits" during his session with the Soviet delegation in the Cabinet room.

The head of the delegation, B.N. Ponomarev, delivered a personal message to Nixon from Leonid Brezhnev, Soviet Communist Party leader, during a 20-minute separate meeting with the President. Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Ziegler said the message was "personal and private."

He said that during the meeting with Ponomarev and the other Russians, Nixon "expressed the importance of continuing progress in fields of exchange and areas of cooperation and negotiation in the upcoming Summit in Moscow."

Gerald L. Warren, deputy press secretary, said Nixon would be negotiating from strength, rather than from Watergate weakness, and said recent votes in the House on military procurement indicated that Nixon had "very strong and well known" support for his foreign policy.

In response to a question, Warren said he did not know of any discussion on the part of Nixon to seek a moratorium on the impeachment proceedings in the House Judiciary Committee while he is in Russia for a week or so at the end of June.

Hutchinson hospitalized

WASHINGTON—Rep. Edward Hutchinson, R-Mich., ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee investigating possible impeachment of President Nixon, was admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital Wednesday night.

The condition of the 59-year-old lawmaker was not revealed by the hospital, nor details of his illness.

"Congressman Hutchinson came in last night at 2100 hours 9 p.m. EDT," said J.P. Van Landingham, acting public affairs officer at the hospital. "He's still here."

Hutchinson's administrative assistant, Mrs. A.G. Schultz, told UPI she was unaware of the hospitalization of the congressman.

Hutchinson has been an ardent supporter of the President and was the only member of the panel to oppose the subpoenaing of additional White House tapes and documents for the inquiry.

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