

President Nixon tells it all to nation?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Nixon made public a 250,000-word White House-edited transcript of some of his intimate Watergate conversations Tuesday in an effort to convince Congress and the nation he played no role in the scandal which has overshadowed all else in his second term.

As Nixon had warned, the transcripts were ambiguous. But they did show that during a two-hour meeting on March 21, 1973, Nixon never explicitly rejected a proposal to pay \$120,000 to buy continued silence from E. Howard Hunt, one of the original seven Watergate bugging defendants.

At one point in his conversation with John Dean, then a presidential lawyer, this exchange occurred:

Nixon: "You have no choice but to come up with the \$120,000...right?"

Dean: "That's right."

Nixon: "...Get it." The three dots indicated an "expletive" had been deleted by the White House tape editors.

Nixon continuing: "Would you agree that that's the prime thing that you damn well better get that done?"

Dean: "Obviously he ought

to be given some signal anyway."

Nixon said in a radio and television address Monday night that he had agreed to Hunt's demands for "black-mail" because he wanted to protect the secrecy of a sensitive "national security" operation. He did not reveal its nature.

The White House, in a 15,000-word preface to the edited transcripts, said they would establish Nixon's innocence.

"In all of the thousands of words spoken, even though they often are unclear and ambiguous, not once does it appear that the President of the United States was engaged in a criminal plot to obstruct justice," the White House said.

Release of the transcripts was a gamble that the nation would share that conclusion. Millions of Americans were likely to examine the contents of Nixon's most intimate conversations over the next few days. Some newspapers planned to carry the texts in full.

On Capitol Hill, the indications were strong that Nixon's action — and his refusal to give the House Judiciary Committee the

tapes it had subpoenaed — would leave the committee unsatisfied.

Generally, Republicans — with some misgivings — accepted the President's decision to provide transcripts and not tapes. Some Democrats were critical. Rep. Robert Drinan, (D-Mass.), said Nixon had provided a "mish-mash." Drinan said he was astonished at the number of marked deletions of "expletives."

The White House gave the Judiciary Committee only 31 of the 42 conversations it had asked for on Feb. 25 and subpoenaed April 11. Spokespersons said nine conversations were never taped and two tapes could not be located.

The White House gave no indication of how or whether it would respond to an additional subpoena — due Thursday — issued by special prosecutor Leon Jaworski for more materials. Nixon stressed on television his view that the transcripts "tell it all."

There were frequent parenthetical denotations showing deletions of "unintelligible" or "inaudible" portions or of materials that

were "irrelevant" in White House judgment.

A black station wagon delivered the transcripts in individual manila envelopes to Capitol Hill Tuesday morning for distribution to the 38 members of Congress on the House committee weighing Nixon's possible impeachment. Six hours later, the transcript, in a single blue-covered volume, was given newsmen.

Much of official and journalistic Washington set to work poring over the texts.

In all, a total of 48 telephone conversations and meetings are presented beginning with the meeting Sept. 15, 1972, between Nixon, Dean and H.R. Haldeman, and ending with the meeting on April 27, 1973 with a meeting between Nixon, Henry Petersen, the assistant attorney general; and Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler.

Other conversations involve or discuss John Ehrlichman, former attorneys general Richard Kleindienst and John Mitchell, former commerce secretary and campaign treasurer Maurice Stans, and White House political aide Charles Colson.

The day of April 16, 1973,

saw Nixon agonizing over whether to fire Ehrlichman, Haldeman and Dean while at the same time conferring with them and others on handling the public relations aspect of the scandal.

He talked on two occasions for more than two hours with Petersen, then in charge of the government's investigation of the case.

The transcripts showed Petersen freely reported to Nixon on the normally secret proceedings of the grand jury and the President then used the information to plan strategy with his aides, who themselves were the grand jury's targets.

For instance, Petersen told Nixon that investigators had evidence that Ehrlichman had ordered FBI Director Patrick Gray to destroy evidence taken from Howard Hunt's White House safe and destroy it and Gray denied any recollection of it.

Minutes later, Nixon was discussing the disclosure casually with Ehrlichman: "Gray denies to Petersen that he ever got the bundle. Oh, he's dumb," Nixon said.

The transcripts totaled 1,308 pages.

Kissinger makes yet another trip to Mideast

By United Press International

Israel said its warplanes scored "good hits" Tuesday on Syrian positions on Mount Hermon, including missile batteries, while ground forces traded artillery and tank fire in the 50th consecutive day of fighting on the Golan Heights.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived in Egypt on his latest—and admittedly toughest—peace-seeking mission.

The Tel Aviv command, in a

delayed report, said a patrol "east of the salient" captured by Israel in the 1973 war killed two Syrian soldiers in a clash late Monday without suffering casualties of its own.

The report was the first since the war last October to mention Israeli ground incursions in the direction of Damascus, which lies as close as 25 miles northeast of the cease-fire lines.

In Beirut, the Defense Ministry said Lebanese troops exchanged fire for two hours Tuesday with an Israeli force encroached on Lebanese territory near Mount Hermon and forced it to retreat behind the border. A communique broadcast by Beirut Radio said one Lebanese soldier was wounded.

The communique said the fighting centered on two hills—El Chahar and El Seddana—which

are natural extensions of Mount Hermon. Press reports said the Israelis were trying to gain a strategic advantage over the Syrians in the weeks-long battle for the strategic 9,200-foot-high mountain straddling the borders.

The army spokesman contradicted a Beirut communique reporting a clash with Lebanese army units across the frontier in the Arkoub region of south Lebanon. "There has been no infiltration by our forces into Lebanon," he said.

Damascus Radio said the fighting on the Golan Heights was so fierce that long lines of Israeli settlers were fleeing back into Israel from the disputed territory. Israeli officials disputed the report as did several of the Israeli settlers.

Kissinger flew to Alexandria from Algiers where he won support from President Houari Boumedienne for his efforts to promote a military disengagement agreement

between Israel and Syria and put an end to the fighting which could plunge the Middle East into another full-scale war. Boumedienne has been one of the toughest of the Arab hardliners and his endorsement could play a major role in Kissinger's talks in Damascus.

The Soviet Union already had pledged to use its influence with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Kissinger is seeking similar backing from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat before he buckles down to the task of getting Damascus and Jerusalem to agree to separate their military forces.

Israeli diplomatic sources in Tel Aviv reported some friction between Kissinger and Israeli Foreign Minister Aba Eban over the latter's public criticism of the United States for voting in favor of the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning an Israeli raid against Lebanese border villages. The raid was in

retaliation for an Arab guerrilla attack on an Israeli border settlement in which 18 persons were killed.

U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Keating asked for a meeting Tuesday with Eban to express official U.S. displeasure at Eban's remarks. Government sources said the current status of the U.S.-Israeli relations was reviewed by the Israeli cabinet which met in Jerusalem to discuss proposals on troop disengagement that Israel could present to Kissinger when he arrives from Cairo Thursday.

A military spokesman said all Israeli planes returned safely to base Tuesday after intermittent runs over the Mount Hermon region that spanned 30 minutes. The armed forces radio said "good hits" were reported on "Syrian tank concentrations, artillery and missile batteries." The command reported one soldier wounded by Syrian shellfire elsewhere along the front.

On the ground, the Syrians directed artillery and tank fire at Israeli positions in the northern sector of the October war battlefield and the southern sector of the Golan Heights west of the 1967 cease-fire line, the military command said. Israeli gunners returned the fire.

Damascus communiques said Syrian forces destroyed three Israeli tanks, blew up an ammunition depot and killed or wounded a number of Israeli troops early in the day in fighting that spread from Mount Hermon all along the front.



"I. F. STONE'S WEEKLY"

"One of 1974's Best Films"
Judith Crist

Final Eugene Showing
Today—1:15 & 2:45 p.m.

Special Wayne Morse
Campaign Benefit



Paid Pol. Adv. Wayne Morse for Congress, Phil George Treas., 595 Crest Dr., Eugene.

MICHAEL
PLAYS
REQUESTS &
DEDICATIONS
WEDNESDAYS
11:30 to 2:00

KZEL-FM 96
746-3157



Courses in ARTS and SCIENCES
6 week sessions and 3 week sessions
Special Programs in
DANCE · FOREIGN LANGUAGES · MARINE SCIENCES
write for free catalog
127 Communications Building
University of California Santa Cruz, California 95064

The Sun Shop
Buys Used
Records