

March 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRYCE N. HARLOW
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS
SUBJECT: House Judiciary Committee

Through recent informal conversations with Republican Members of Congress it is clear even some of our friends will vote subpoenas, maybe contempt and possibly impeachment based on President's refusal to turn over materials to the inquiry panel. While many do not favor rummaging through WH files, nevertheless they fear public opinion perception of "cover-up". Also, for institutional reasons, some Republicans join most Democrats in failing to understand or appreciate the separation of powers - executive privilege argument.

Therefore, before the first confrontation, I believe we must try harder to sell our position and rationale.

Recommendations:

1. That House GOP Leadership sponsor a meeting with Republicans on Judiciary Committee and selected WH staff. We have a duty to explain the President's position to members of his party.
2. That a House GOP Conference be called for the same purpose.
3. That consideration be given for the President going on national television at some point to build support for his position.