STATEMENT BY REP. EDWARD MEZVINSKY, APRIL 11, 1974

Rapped

I believe we have no choice but to issue a subpoena for this material.

I do not choose this course lightly, but it is demanded by the woefully inadequate voluntary response we've been waiting so patiently for. I think our committee genuinely reflects the anxiety of the nation to move ahead with this inquiry without further delay. The people are demanding action, demanding that we pull ourselves out of the maze of dilatory tactics created by the White House.

country is

As this year opened, the President was proclaiming and complaining that one year of Watergate was enough. We all hoped that was the dawn of a new spirit of cooperation but now we've seen almost one-sixth of a year slip away while we've waited for a White House response to our request for this evidence. We're still waiting and as long as our request goes unanswered, the dark clouds of Watergate will hang over the White House.

A subpoena must be issued. It will again reaffirm the Committee's determination to get the evidence we need for a thorough and fair investigation of the charges before us. And, it seems that only a subpoena can satisfy the urgent need for a definite "yes" or "no" response to our request. Since February, the White House response has run from villifying the request with charges about "fishing licenses" and U-Haul trailers to the most recent "maybe we'll comply as long as we get more time and can modify and qualify the request." The subpoena can bring down the curtain on this tedious stall by clearly requiring a "yes" or "no" answer. for our request -

It's urgent that we get yes or no response we and people will comply

we've been waiting since Feb

Although our patience has been worn thin by abrasive White House tactics, I think we can issue a subpoena with the best of motives rather than as a punitive and threatening action.

I certainly hope the President would comply with the subpoena. Regardless of the consequences of not doing so, compliance would surely serve the best interest of the nation and the President himself.

It's time to move ahead toward completion of an investigation which considers all relevant information--that which can exonerate as well as that which implicates--and can resolve this critical issue.

It is clear that the subpoena has become a necessary cog in this constitutional machinery.

##