NIXON LOSES!!!
Supreme Court upholds Sirica's decision, 8-0

The United States Supreme Court, by a vote of 8-0, ruled this morning that President Richard M. Nixon must obey a lower court decision to turn over the tapes of 64 conversations held in the White House to Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Sirica handed down the decision on April 18. Nixon's personal attorney James St. Clair appealed the decision to the Supreme Court and asked that the court consider the issue of whether or not a grand jury can name the President as an unindicted co-conspirator.

The court ruled that it was "improper" for a Washington D.C. grand jury to name Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate cover-up case. The grand jury that named Nixon was the one that named six of his aides, who will be going on trial in September.

Spirits for the president, as recently as Monday, would not say one way or the other if the president would obey a decision of the Supreme Court, although a statement was made by Attorney General John Sirica that the President's legitimate right to confidentiality in this case. He continued that material irrelevant to the trial should be "treated with the highest degree of respect due the President."

The Court dismissed St. Clair's argument that Jaworski was merely an executive branch employee, and that the Court had no right to interfere in what was essentially an intra-branch argument. "It is theoretically possible" Burger wrote, "for the Attorney-General to revoke or redefine the role of the Special prosecutor." Since Atty. Gen. Saxbe has not done so, Burger stated, the dispute was a real and judicial one.

Jaworski was interviewed by Fred Graham of CBS News on the steps of the Supreme Court, where he agreed that the decision was "definitive." He added, "I am pleased that the decision was unanimous, in a sense that doesn't leave any doubt in anyone's mind as to what the law is in this case... This is a very very important constitutional decision."