

# Nixon Seeks to Suppress Watergate Tapes Release

*Pub 1-8-77*  
Attorneys for former President Richard M. Nixon asked the Supreme Court yesterday to bar release of the 30 White House tapes played during the Watergate cover-up trial of Nixon's top advisers.

The appeal asks the high court to overturn a decision by the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington that the tapes "are no longer confidential" and can be released.

Nixon's appeal said the circuit court was wrong in deciding that a necessary consequence of the tapes being played during the cover-up trial was their later "exploitation."

Release of the tapes could "place the subpoenaed materials in the hands of private parties to be broadcast on television, to be marketed in the form of phonograph records and cassettes, to be played at cocktail parties and in satiric productions, and to be exploited in any other fashion," Nixon's appeal said.

It also said release of the tapes could prove damaging to Watergate cover-up defendants who are appealing their convictions.

In a 2-to-1 decision last October, the circuit court rejected arguments by attorneys for the former President that the tapes would invade Nixon's privacy and prove embarrassing to him.

"The tapes at issue are not record-

ings of bedroom or other intimate conversations and the embarrassment Mr. Nixon fears is not republication of highly personal matters," the circuit court ruled.

Several broadcast news organizations successfully filed suit to get the tapes, widely reported during the trials of John Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, Robert Mardian, and Kenneth Parkinson.

If the tapes eventually are released, the public will learn what expletives were deleted and will be able to assess the tone and inflections of voice used by Nixon and his aides.

Warner Bros. Records plans to market the complete tapes once they are released. It also plans to sell a two-record album of the history of Watergate with excerpts from the tapes and a narration by actor George C. Scott, according to a Los Angeles source.

On Nov. 29, the Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in Nixon's bid for control of all White House tapes and other records of his administration.

The justices said they would review the Presidential Materials and Recordings Preservation Act passed by Congress in 1971. It gives the General Services Administration control over an estimated 42 million pages of documents and some 900 reels of tape recordings from the Nixon administration.