

Saxbe Quoted Urging Destruction of Tapes

DESTRUCT, From A1

ing that tapes be destroyed.

According to Chang's transcript, Saxbe said near the end of his speech:

"Looking back at what's going to happen back the U.S., I think we're going to wallow in this agony of Watergate for some time to come.

"I think the President is right on standing on his rights not to disclose the tapes. I personally wish I had never heard of the tapes, and unless they're incriminating, I think he should give them up. If they're incriminating, they should be destroyed, and I'm sure he will.

"But I think he's right in saying that a President cannot

be horsed around in our courts. Our separation of powers is so different."

Hoiles said the thrust of Saxbe's speech, which was given at an 8 a.m. chamber of commerce breakfast, was that the American government should take more cognizance of the problems of U.S. businessmen abroad and that it should allow American free enterprise to compete more effectively in the world.

Hoiles said that he had never heard Saxbe say incriminating tapes should be destroyed—"before or since" the White House told the court last Thursday that tapes of two of nine conversations thought to be recorded and to be submitted never existed.



WILLIAM B. SAXBE
... sarcastic remark?

Saxbe Seen Urging Tape Destruction

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By Susanna McBee

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. William B. Saxbe (R-whom Ohio), President Nixon has nominated to be the new Attorney General, was quoted in Hong Kong last Aug. 23 as saying the White House Watergate tape recordings "should be destroyed" if they are "incriminating."

He also was quoted as saying he was "sure" the President would destroy them if they were incriminating.

Asked Saturday about the quotation, which appeared in the Hong Kong Standard, Saxbe said through an aide, "I don't think I said that. I don't recall saying it."

The aide, William Hoiles, who is Saxbe's administrative assistant and who was with Saxbe when he was said to have made the remark oin an off-the-cuff speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, said he did not recall the comment either.

But Chamber President Herbert Minich, when read a transcript prepared by Hong Kong Standard reporter Victor Chang from his tape recording of Saxbe's talk, said that to the best of his memory it was accurate.

Washington Post Hong Kong correspondent H.D.S. Greenway said three other members of the audience also remember Saxbe's tape destruction comment, although two of them considered it sarcastic rather than actually advocat-

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