

Nixon left personal records behind

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard M. Nixon says that when his administration collapsed under the weight of Watergate he left behind records that give his years in office a personal touch.

Pharmacists told to hold off posting common drug prices

BALTIMORE (AP)—Maryland's Pharmacy Board has told pharmacists to hold off posting prices of the 100 most commonly prescribed drugs as allowed under a new state law.

"Until the board can get its data together on what are the most common drugs, we want no posting," explained Charles H. Tregoe, the board's secretary-treasurer. "We don't want the public to be deceived."

Robert T. Quarles, another board member, said the panel's position "is not to post. We want to have a consistent poster first."

The General Assembly this year enacted a law allowing druggists to post prices July 1. Price posting becomes mandatory Jan. 1.

"One reason we weren't ready July 1 is because the bill is not to be implemented until Jan. 1," Tregoe said. "We have many other things to go into."

The Pharmacy Board's position means that few drug stores in Maryland are posting prices, officials said.

"There's no question we're disappointed over this," said Robert Moss, chairman of the state's Consumer Advisory Council which is to help the board draw up the price poster.

"When I resigned the office of President ... I left in the White House not only the materials my staff had accumulated during five and one half years there, but a large quantity of the materials I had brought with me at the time I assumed office, Nixon said in a sworn affidavit filed last week in U.S. District Court.

The affidavit was filed in support of Nixon's contention that Congress acted unconstitutionally in denying him ownership of 42 million documents and 880 reels of tape, many of which were involved in the Watergate investigations.

Although all of the material has been lumped together under a Watergate label, Nixon said many of the items held by the government are of no use to anyone else. He said they represent the records of his personal and professional life.

Nixon's affidavit said he has received some of his pre-presidential papers, although "I know that many items ... are still impounded with the presidential materials of my administration."

Among personal items the former president says he wants released are diaries, letters, memoranda and tape recordings of personal conversations, some between members of the former first family.

Nixon said some of the tape recordings still held by the government contain discussions of "purely personal matters."

"I can only state that I had such conversations nearly daily and often several times during a day with my wife, my daughters, personal friends, close staff members and other persons," Nixon said.

Nixon said that at times he considered himself to be a "private citizen" holding "discussions in my offices with my personal physician concerning my health, a subject I would not and did not discuss with others.

"I talked candidly with my personal attorneys about confidential matters. And finally, on other occasions, I met and talked with clergymen and counsellors whom I considered to be personal clergy about matters I trusted and assumed they would not recount to others," he said.

Nixon told the three-judge panel he also is concerned about longhand drafts of his State of the Union addresses, political letters and discussions he held as head of the Republican party and hundreds of personal letters that "did not necessarily pertain to my activities as a constitutional officeholder or even to political matters."