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## White House Mum On

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is shielding the identity of the typists who transcribed President Nixon's Watergate tapes for fear they might be subpoenaed, sources say.

One knowledgeable source says Nixon's lawyers several

weeks ago made the decision to resist any effort to question the typists about preparation of transcripts dotted with more than 1,600 passages marked "inaudible" or "unintelligible."

"We don't want them hounded," said one official who rebuffed a newsman's attempt

to learn the identity of the typists.

Nixon's chief Watergate lawyer, James D. St. Clair, has consistently refused to divulge the names "because no useful purpose would be served by it."

Presidential spokesman Gerald L. Warren referred a ques-

## Transcript Typist Names

tioner to St. Clair's remark and said "there are a number of reasons that fall into that category."

Asked whether fear of subpoenas was the main reason, Warren responded, "I haven't heard that."

Controversy over preparation of the transcripts was heightened Tuesday with disclosure that they contain two different versions of a portion of one conversation—with substantial differences in some words and phrases.

Acknowledging the snafu, officials said it probably resulted when two typists transcribed a portion of the same tape, or when the same conversation was listened to time and again in an effort to decipher unintelligible portions.

Despite the secrecy surrounding the identity of the typists, some details of the transcription procedure have emerged in private and public comments by White House officials and sources.

J. Fred Buzhardt, Nixon's special counsel, was in charge of the task—"He was the operational commander," one official said.

Late last year, transcripts of about 10 of the key conversations were made as the White House prepared to respond to a subpoena from the Watergate special prosecutor. Beginning in late March—well before receipt of the House Judiciary Committee's April 11 subpoena for 42 tapes—a system was implemented to make further transcripts.

Buzhardt was in charge, but

one source said "Rose Mary was involved," a reference to Nixon's long-time personal secretary Rose Mary Woods.

According to another source, Miss Woods did not have a role in transcribing the tapes themselves. But she apparently teamed with Buzhardt in checking out tapes from a vault in the Executive Office Building and carrying them to an office where the team of four to six typists worked behind locked doors.

Locating the specific conversations on the reels of tape was a big job in itself, one official said. "You couldn't walk up to a file cabinet and pull them out," he said. "Some tape reels covered a day or more . . ."

Once the desired conversation

was located by the supervisors, the typists used conventional tape recorders and head sets to prepare a rough draft of the conversation.

"You get a very rough initial transcript," St. Clair told newsmen last week. "The President reviews that. Then it is reviewed to see how many other words can be put in. You have got a blank here and now you listen and try to fill in that blank and get as many words as you can."

"They were improved upon by this process," Warren said Tuesday in describing how the tapes would be listened to "over and over again" to try to unscramble unintelligible conversation.