

11 March 1974

HW: Nixon's Sony's, yr 4/23/74

Herewith what Accurate has on the Sony model which Mark, the man I talk to, believes is the one used in the WH, the TC-800B.

I am sure this is the model he showed me last fall when I ran across a reference to the model in a story we cannot now locate. However I am about to work through this period in a file-consolidation project and will keep my eye peeled for the refernce, which I recall vaguely now as having said the WH had five of these machines. If I find the reference, I'll report anything else relevant.

Mark establishes that the 800B does NOT have any self-reversing capacity. It does have a mike-switching capacity which means it also can be used with a foot pedal, just like your TC40. However, what the ~~800B~~ 800B does NOT have -- which the Uher does have -- is an automatic back-spacing feature activated by the foot pedal cutoff which makes transcribing infinitely easier. What this does is to run the tape back a bit at the end of each run forward, so that transcribing can be resumed with continuity and without having to back-space manually. This circumstance alone could explain why they had to send out and get a Uher for Rose Mary to use in transcribing.

Incidentally, Mark also is inclined to think that they used the Uhers for recording, rather than the Sonys, simply because the 7-inch would permit 8 hours on a side instead of 4 on the 5-inch reels which are as big as the Sony can take. (4 hours on a side, not 6 as you figured for .5 mil tape, says Mark, and I come out with the same figures.) Anyway, he says that while the Sony does not have any self-reversing capacity, it is a simple matter to hook two or more in tandem so that when one runs out of tape it automatically turns on the next machine. That means 8 hours with 2 machines, 12 with 3, etc.

We have the same recollection here that at the time of the disclosures last summer and fall there was no mention, ever, of the recording speed, but it seems that with voice only involved there would be no reason to use any but the very lowest speed, 15/16.

One final note: Mark says this machine, the 800B, is fully capable of using a voice-activated mike, although the one that comes with it is equipped only with a manual on-off switch.

Hope this helps, and I'll advise of anything further I run into.

jdw