

23 Aug 75

Nixon (tapes and documents) - Editorial, "Mr. Nixon's False Claim."

"Determination of the custody, ownership and disposition of Richard M. Nixon's White House documents and tapes must be guided by a recognition that the materials at issue are not the ordinary records of a former President. These include evidence of the improper and often illegal actions that forced Mr. Nixon to resign in order to avoid impeachment.

"That special circumstance cannot be ignored in any assessment of Mr. Nixon's recent legal efforts to reassert his and his family's sole right to decide 'what is private and what is personal and what is political and what is embarrassing, what is national security' amid those documents - and what is to be released....

"In a manner that characterized his public posture during the stonewalling days of the Watergate cover-up, Mr. Nixon once again pretends that his privileges as a former President are unaffected by his role as an unindicted co-conspirator. There will be ample opportunity for Congress, the courts and the Public Documents Commission established by the 1974 legislation*to define the property rights of future Presidents with regard to their White House files. That task cannot properly be assigned to Richard Nixon."

NYT 23 Aug 75, Editorial

*Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974.