

Ruckelshaus' Apology

Washington

Acting F B I director William D. Ruckelshaus apologized yesterday for a facetious and misleading reference to "arm wrestling" with Secret Service agents over missing FBI files at the White House.

Ruckelshaus told reporters Monday that records of wiretaps sought in the Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles, missing from the FBI since the summer of 1971, were

found Saturday in an office safe of former White House domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman.

During his news conference, Ruckelshaus said that "when we took the papers out that resulted in this, it was the most difficult thing I've ever had to do. We almost had to arm wrestle with the Secret Service later on because the records were gone."

Yesterday, Ruckelshaus

wrote Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz who has jurisdiction over the Secret Service, that his agents "could not have been more polite or efficient" in releasing the FBI records.

"My allusion to 'arm wrestling' was an effort at hyperbole at a time when reality cannot absorb exaggeration," he wrote.

"The gloves were never donned, the fighters never

introduced, and the bell never rang. In short, the bout never occurred," said Ruckelshaus, who promised to "restrain my penchant for levity."

A Secret Service spokesman had said Monday that Ruckelshaus and an FBI agent were in the Executive Office Building for only four minutes, and that "We gave them the files they requested" without incident.

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