

Kennedy Archives Yield

By Jules Witcover

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The director of the John F. Kennedy Library in Waltham, Mass., reported yesterday that a search of its archives has revealed the existence of 68 dictaphone belts of telephone conversations and 125 magnetic tapes of meetings involving the late President Kennedy.

Dan Fenn, the library director, said the dictaphone belts cover conversations starting about September, 1962, and the magnetic tapes record meetings beginning in July, 1962.

Fenn said the library staff has not had time to review the material, nor has it been screened by the special committee established to decide what can be made public. But a cursory check indicates, he said, "that almost all the material deals with highly sensitive foreign policy and national defense matters."

Also, a federal government spokesman reported that a check at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan., uncovered some "stenographic recordings" of presidential conver-

sations, but no dictaphone belts or tapes.

In neither case was there any indication that an automatic presidential bugging system was in operation like the one the White House admitted Monday has been recording Mr. Nixon's utterances there since the spring of 1971.

That admission was accompanied by a claim by J. Fred Buzhardt, special counsel to Mr. Nixon, that a "similar" system also existed in the White House when the late President

Lyndon B. Johnson was the occupant.

Ranking officials of the Johnson administration have denied that any such automatic taping system was used, and one of them, former Johnson aide Joseph A. Califano, has called the contention "an outrageous smear on a dead President."

Buzhardt promised Monday to provide the Senate Watergate Committee with "a more detailed statement" on the Nixon White House system, but the White House declined yesterday to say when it will be released.

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Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren also declined to say whether the statement was in preparation and whether, specifically, it would provide any evidence substantiating Buzhardt's claim that a similar system was used in the Johnson years.

The White House confirmed Monday that the system was installed in 1971 by the Secret Service, but the security agency's spokesman said that if a similar system also existed in the Johnson years, the Secret Service didn't install it.

Col. Lawrence Adams, director of the White House Communications Agency, a Defense Department unit that handles most presidential electronic communications needs, declined to say yesterday whether that agency ever installed such a system for the Johnson White House. He referred all questions to Warren, who declined comment.

One of the chief communications officers in the Johnson White House, Col. James Adams, now an information officer at the Pen-

tagon, also declined comment.

Nixon administration officials at both the State and Defense Departments said yesterday that no system similar to that in the White House is used in either place.

A State Department spokesman said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers "does not tape telephone conversations," and that "as a broad general rule, he does not have anyone else listen in or monitor conversations. If a specific occasion arises where he

does want to have a record," the spokesman, Paul J. Hare, said, "the other party would be so notified."

Jerry W. Friedheim, assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said that a survey at the Pentagon yesterday indicated the White House practice "does not exist here to the best of our knowledge."

Telephones at the Pentagon are not routinely bugged, he said, and employees are "admonished" against taping conversations without asking permission of the caller.