

Report On Tapes' Contents

Washington

An article in New Republic that will be published today contends that White House lawyers had determined that the evidence in the secret tapes of President Nixon's conversations was, in the article's terms, "mixed and confusing."

John Osborne, the magazine's White House correspondent, said in the article that "some of the tapes in question were played back and drawn upon by the lawyers and others who helped Mr. Nixon draft his May 22 statement," in which he denied involvement in the Watergate break-in and the subsequent coverup.

The article said Osborne had learned that some of the conversations on the tapes "supported the President's contentions and recollections" but that other portions, "often on the same tape, could be interpreted if read alone to dispute his contentions and make him out a liar."

A White House spokesman declined to comment on the New Republic article.

New York Times