

Sirica Says Experts Report Miss Woods's Lamp and

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 — Neither the high-intensity lamp nor the electric typewriter used by President Nixon's secretary, Rose Mary Woods, was the "likely" cause of a gap with 18 minutes of buzzing on a key Watergate tape recording, Judge John J. Sirica said today.

The judge said that this finding was the "preliminary result" of a study of the disputed tape by a panel of experts. The recording was made in Mr. Nixon's office June 20, 1972, three days after five burglars were caught in the Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate complex here.

Judge Sirica said there were "some indications" that the Uher Universal 5000 tape recorder used by Miss Woods "could have produced the buzz." However, he added, these "indications" are "yet to be confirmed by further study."

He said there were also "indications" that any voices that might have been on the tape appeared last beyond retrieval, but that this, too, was "yet to be confirmed."

Statement From Bench

The obliterated sequence on the tape recorded a conversation between Mr. Nixon and H. R. Haldeman, then his chief of staff, about the Watergate case.

Today, in an unusual action, the chief judge of the United

States District Court here convened his court, with lawyers for the special Watergate prosecutor and the White House on hand, and appeared in his black robes to read a news release on the tapes from the bench. Then he adjourned the court.

Judge Sirica said that a full report on the June 20 tape was expected after the end of the year.

The panel of experts, named Nov. 21, will continue its work after that report is filed, studying "the authenticity and integrity of the tapes in general," he said.

He said that the six-man panel, aided by "several other specialists," had spent much time setting up "instruments and

procedures and making preliminary tests."

"The work, which involves use of spectrum analyzers, computers, graphical displays and other advanced equipment, has been conducted in several facilities," Judge Sirica continued.

For the first time the judge listed the specific questions being asked of the panel:

¶ "Is this tape the original one that was recorded on June 20, 1972? Does it contain erasures or splices? Or is it a copy that has been edited by operations such as cutting and splicing before re-recording?"

¶ "How was the 18-minute section of buzzing sounds produced? Was all the buzzing

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Typewriter Are Unlikely Have Caused Tape Gap

produced continuously at one time?"

¶ "Can speech should be detected under the buzzing? If so, to what extent can the speech be recaptured and made intelligible?"

Lawyers' Explanation

The White House lawyers at first said that it was believed the buzzing had been caused "by the depression of a record button during the process of reviewing the tape, possible while the recorder was in the proximity of an electric typewriter and a high-intensity lamp."

A few days later, J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., special counsel to the President, downgraded that

version saying it was "just a possibility."

Miss Woods testified that she had inadvertently pressed the record button on her tape recorder and pushed down on a foot treadle advancing the tape while stretching to answer a telephone call. She called that action a "terrible mistake" but said it would account for only about five minutes of the 18-minute buzz.

A reporter for the New York Times, experimenting with a high-intensity light and a Uher recorder, managed to generate a sustained buzzing close to that heard on the tape.

The judge's report today came after the panel of experts ex-

perimented with Miss Woods's recorder, light and typewriter.

After the unusual court session, Mr. Buzhardt commented, "We'll accept whatever they find."

Volunteers Sought in Britain Willing to 'Be Given' a Cold

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Medical Research Council wants volunteers to catch cold.

It will pay them about 85 cents a day to stay at the Common Cold Unit at the Harvard Hospital at Salisbury, Wiltshire, for 10 days. There they live in comfortable apart-

ments, play games and go for country hikes. Men and women between 18 and 50 are eligible. All they have to do is take nose drops, some of which contain mild cold and flu viruses, so the effects of possible cold cures can be tested.

Manufacturers Provide Jobs

OTTAWA (AP) — The manufacturing industry employs one of every four Canadians in the labor force.