

NIXON DENIES TAPES FOR 2 INDIANS' TRIAL

ST. PAUL, Aug. 7 (AP) — President Nixon has refused to turn over Presidential tape recordings that defense attorneys in the wounded Knee trial contend have a bearing on their case.

An exhibit entered by attorneys for two leaders of the American Indian Movement, Dennis Banks and Russell Means, in Federal District Court today included a signed statement in which Nixon refused to respond to a May 2 subpoena.

The President said "that the tape recordings, to the extent that they may exist, were within the constitutional privilege of the President to refuse to disclose confidential information."

Mr. Means, 34 years old, of Porcupine, S.D., and Mr. Banks, 42, of St. Paul are accused in a 10-count indictment of burglary, theft, firearms violations and conspiracy, among other charges, in the 71-day takeover of the Indian village of Wounded Knee, S.D., last year.

Judge Fred J. Nichol said he would hear arguments on the issue tomorrow or Friday.

Attorneys for Mr. Banks and Mr. Means have maintained there were White House conversations regarding Wounded Knee in March, 1973, during the siege.

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