

Miss Woods Back at White House

By Jules Witcover
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Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's personal secretary and a major figure in the Nixon White House tape recording controversies earlier this year, is back working in the White House complex.

A source at Nixon's home in San Clemente, Calif., said Miss Woods is here as the former President's staff representative to deal with all matters concerning his interests in the transition to the Ford administration.

She is assigned, this source said, to deal with the Ford White House and with any problems that arise in Washington relating to the Watergate trial and the disposition of Nixon's papers, which are being held here under a court restraining order.

The Ford White House confirmed that Miss Woods is working in Nixon's old Executive Office Building suite, at the direction of Nixon.

She remains on the White House payroll at an annual salary of \$36,000, the White House said. Ron Nessen, Mr. Ford's press secretary, has said salaries of Nixon's aides will be assumed by Nixon as soon as funds being sought for

him in Congress under the transition and former President's laws are voted.

Also working in the EOB, the White House said, is Marjorie Acker, a secretary who assisted Miss Woods in the Nixon administration. She also is detailed to Nixon and working under his direction, the White House said.

The San Clemente source said Miss Woods already has done some reviewing of Nixon's personal papers, but the White House stressed that she does not have access to any papers involved in the Watergate trial or of interest to the Watergate special prosecutor's office.

John O. Marsh, counselor to the President, is dealing with Miss Woods as the White House's chief contact on transition and matters concerning Nixon, the White House said.

Miss Woods could not be reached by telephone yesterday. A caller to the White House switchboard was asked to identify himself and then asked to hold. In a few moments the operator reported back that Miss Woods was "not available."

At the Watergate complex, a clerk said Miss Woods still maintains an apartment there,

but could be reached only by leaving a message.

Miss Woods, secretary to Nixon since his days as a U.S. senator in 1951, testified in the Watergate case a year ago that she had discovered an 18½-minute "gap" in a key White House tape she was transcribing.

She said later she had inadvertently erased a portion of the tape by keeping her foot on a pedal. The testimony caused a sensation and was followed by a report by technical experts that the gap was the result of at least five separate manual erasures, and that none could have been caused by Miss Woods' using the foot pedal.