

An OK to Broadcast Trial Tapes

Washington

The Watergate special prosecutor's office informed federal court yesterday that it does not object to allowing radio broadcasts of White House tapes which have been played at the Watergate coverup trial.

The three commercial networks, Public Broadcasting Service and the Radio-Television News Directors Association petitioned the court on November 12 to permit copying of the tapes for broadcast.

"The special prosecutor, as attorney for the United States, does not foresee that the rights of the defendants or of the United States to a fair trial would be jeopardized if the motion is granted," said a memorandum directed to the court.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, presiding over the coverup trial, had denied permission to duplicate the recordings. The broadcasters' petition then was filed with the chief judge of the court, who assigned the case to U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell.

Gesell has scheduled a hearing on the matter for Friday. 29 NOV

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