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House Panel Backs U.S. Tapes Role

United Press International

The House Administration Committee voted unanimously yesterday to give the government, not former President Nixon, control of his Watergate-related tapes and documents.

President Ford previously consented to an agreement that gave Nixon the right to control his old White House materials. The agreement would have allowed Nixon to destroy the documents in three years and the tapes in five years.

Under the House committee measure, similar to a Senate-passed bill, the government would retain control of the materials and allow Nixon access to them.

Another provision in the House bill provides for the selection of a special counsel—instead of the Attorney General—to represent Congress in the event there is court action involving ownership of Nixon's materials.

Prosecutor Unopposed To Tapes Broadcast

The Watergate special prosecutor's office said yesterday that it does not oppose a request by major radio and television networks to broadcast publicly the White House tapes that have been introduced as evidence in the Watergate cover-up trial.

In a two-page legal memorandum filed with U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, the prosecutor's office said the decision on whether to release the tapes "is peculiarly within the discretion of the court."

Public broadcast of the tapes, which have already been played to the press and public attending the cover-up trial, would not harm the rights of the defendants or otherwise affect the trial, the prosecutors said.