

... and the 'Edited' Tapes

Before the books can be closed on Watergate, the investigators will have to turn back and fill in the blanks that remain on earlier pages. For example, an explanation is still lacking of the origin of the famous 18-minute gap in the recorded conversation between Mr. Nixon and H. R. Haldeman about the cover-up game plan.

Considerably less difficult should be the task of fixing responsibility for the major discrepancies between the White House-produced transcripts of the tapes and the actual recordings that have since been heard in the courtroom. The cosmetic treatment given those transcripts leaves no doubt that the persons responsible for the "editing" were perpetuating the cover-up and obstructing justice.

By giving the Federal Government custody of all of Mr. Nixon's tapes and documents, thus nullifying President Ford's precipitate agreement to let Mr. Nixon control those crucial records, Congress has now taken an important step to assure the American people that neither the premature pardon nor the unindicted co-conspirator's vacant chair in the courtroom will prevent ultimate disclosure of the White House horrors.