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Richey to Remain On Tapes Panel

U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Richey yesterday refused to remove himself from a three-judge panel that will hold a hearing March 17 on the constitutionality of a law concerning ownership of tapes and documents from former President Nixon's administration.

Nixon's attorney, Herbert J. Miller, had asked that Richey take himself off the panel because of a previous ruling he issued—the effectiveness of which has been stayed by an appellate court—in which he said the documents and tapes belong to the federal government.

The three-judge court must review actions of and decision made by Judge Richey, thereby compelling him "to sit in judgment on his own prior decision." Miller said. Judge Richey denied the request in a brief order, saying it was "insufficient as a matter of law."