

1 December 1975

....Robert Krulwich (feed from Washington): Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's private secretary, wants her Christmas Card list and her tape of Tricia Nixon's wedding and some of her books and all of her office files back. Forty-four boxes of her materials were taken from her White House office and sealed during the squabble over the Nixon papers. That squabble is still going on, but Rose Mary Woods does not want to wait any longer. Through her lawyer, she managed to obtain a list of several hundred of her things. The list was prepared by an archivist assigned to the White House named Mary Philippini [phonetic]. Miss Philippini, on her own, said that the items on the list are all personal, they are not presidential historical material, and therefore they do not belong to the United States but are properly Miss Woods'.

Lawyers working for the Reporters Committee for a Free Press say it is not enough to have a White House archivist decide what's presidential and what's private, and they wonder about some of the items on the list. Miss Woods was being investigated for the eighteen-and-a-half-minutes tape gap, and notes and memos on that subject are on the list, and so was her correspondence with officials in the Nixon White House.

Woods has filed with Federal District ~~Judge~~ Court Judge [Aubrey ?] Robinson demanding that the material be returned immediately. The Reporters Committee late this afternoon counter-filed. They say Miss Woods should wait along with everyone else until Congress ~~xxxxxxxx~~ produces and votes on procedures how to release the papers and when. Until then, they say, everyone should just sit tight, and they told Judge Robinson that they will oppose letting a White House archivist make the decision by herself.

Curiously, the Justice Department also sent to Judge Robinson a position paper saying that they do not oppose Rose Mary Woods' request. The Justice Department's position surprised observers, because Justice Department lawyers have been very suspicious about President Nixon's attempts to get at his papers. Apparently those same lawyers do not have the same feeling about Miss Woods. In Washington, for Pacifica Radio, this is Robert Krulwich reporting.

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