

Nixon's Plea to High Court on Tapes

Washington

Former President Nixon yesterday sought U.S. Supreme Court help to regain control of documents and tapes accumulated during his presidency and turned over to the General Services Administration by a law enacted by Congress in 1974.

A special three-judge federal panel here upheld the constitutionality of the law earlier this year. The law barred disclosure of most of the 42 million pages of documents, plus tape recordings, that piled up between Jan. 20, 1969, and

Aug. 9, 1974.

The appeal said Mr. Nixon is concerned mostly with a small percentage of the material "most intimately connected with personal and political activities while in office—including tape recordings of his conversations and some 200,000 other items personally prepared or reviewed by (him)."

This material, for the most part, has remained segregated from the bulk of the items seized under the law, and is stored in four small areas in the White House complex,

the appeal said.

The appeal said the 1974 law violates the principle of separation of powers, the constitutional privilege of confidentiality, Mr. Nixon's right to privacy, and the free speech rights of the former President and his advisers.

The appeal will not be acted on for several weeks. Should the Supreme Court decide to hear arguments, they will not take place until fall.

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