

Watergate Papers, Tapes Stolen, Found

Post 9/15/73

A briefcase filled with Watergate-related papers and tape recordings of interviews with Watergate witnesses were stolen from a parked car last July and discovered in a vacant garage the next day, Washington police confirmed yesterday.

Police said the briefcase was taken from a car belonging to Stephen Leopold, a Canadian who was working as an investigator for the Senate select Watergate committee, shortly before midnight on July 30 while the car was parked in the 1100 block of P Street NW.

Tapes used in interviews were also taken, police said. Leopold reported the theft immediately, police said. The next afternoon, however, after an anonymous tipster telephoned, police officers found the tapes and briefcase—apparently intact—in a vacant garage in the 1300 block of 13th Street NW.

Leopold left his job about three weeks ago to return to Canada. Senior committee staff members were not immediately available for comment.

Police said they understood the tapes and papers were not especially sensitive.
