

Post 9-18-74

30 Tapes To Be Used For Trial

Watergate prosecutors said yesterday that they plan to use at least 30 White House tape recordings at the cover-up conspiracy trial of six of former President Nixon's aides and campaign advisers.

The report, made in a 12-page memo to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, constituted the first hint of how many of the conversations subpoenaed from Mr. Nixon over the past 15 months contain direct evidence bearing on the alleged conspiracy.

Anticipating a rush of defense objections to use of the evidence, special prosecutors assigned to the cover-up trial asked Sirica to permit copies of the recordings to be played back and urged him to allow the jurors to read transcripts.

The prosecutors estimated that it would take 18 hours to listen to the tapes they now plan to introduce even if transcripts are used.

Without transcripts, they said, "the listening process will have to be interrupted every time there is a change in the identity of the person speaking on the tape."

Sirica was also handed a prosecution memo yesterday on Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's plans to ask the judge to call one or more "court witnesses" at the trial, a device that would permit the government to cross-examine individuals who it wants to call but whose testimony may not be "full and frank." Jaworski did not name those he had in mind.