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Ziegler's
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Words Are

Immortal

New Orleans

Former White House press secretary Ron Ziegler has won the "gobbledygook" category of the Doublespeak Awards, given by a teachers' group to people whose group says misuse and distort language.

Daniel J. Dieterich, of the University of Illinois and the National Association of Teachers of English, which presented the award, said, "This particular award is made to Ziegler because of his response to a question from reporters about whether a batch of Watergate tapes were all still intact."

The reply, transcribed verbatim, was:

"I would feel that most of the conversations that took place in those areas of the White House that did have the recording system would in almost their entirety be in existence but the special prosecutor, the court, and, I think, the American people are sufficiently familiar with the recording system to know where the recording devices existed and to know the situation in terms of the recording process but I feel, although the process has not been undertaken yet in preparation of the material to abide by the court decision, really, what the answer to that question is."

Associated Press

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