

All-out Effort to Restore Erased Tape**Washington**

In an electronics factory next to a meat market in New York's West Harlem, a panel of experts in computer and recording technology yesterday began studying the White House tape on which an 18¼-minute segment of conversation was erased.

The reel was taken aboard a train by six armed U.S. Marshals, who delivered it in a magnetic-proof steel box Thursday night to the Federal Scientific Corp. there. The tape is expected to be run through a series of "signal enhancement" tests in an attempt to restore the erased portions.

can make no comment until we have completed it (the examination) to our satisfaction and have fully reported it to the judge."

Working with Weiss on the tapes assignment are Richard H. Bolt, a Cambridge, Mass., acoustics and computer expert; Franklin Cooper, a linguistics professor at the University of Connecticut; James L. Flanagan, a Bell Laboratories Inc. digital coding expert; Thomas G. Stockham Jr., a University of Utah computer sciences professor; and John G. McKnight, An audio systems consultant.

A representative from the White House, Richard Hau-

The other six presidential tapes remained in a safe in the U.S. Court House under protection by U.S. Marshals.

Also taken to New York were the electric typewriter of Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's personal secretary, and a high intensity lamp that had been on Miss Woods desk on October 1. Miss Woods has testified that on that day she was transcribing a tape made on June 20, 1972, in Mr. Nixon's Executive Office Building suite that included a conversation between the President and H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, the White House chief of staff.

Miss Woods has said she

ser, was present as an observer. The panel was selected jointly by the White House and the prosecutors.

The panel first met on November 18 in the Executive Office Building to develop a draft proposal for a series of "pilot tests (and) to explore possible ways to validate the recordings." U.S. District Chief Judge John J. Sirica said when he announced the appointments to the panel.

Some of the panel members have estimated that it may take six weeks or more to complete all of the tests.

The roles of the panel members, who are digital computer experts, is be-

accidentally erased a portion of the tape when she pushed a "record" button on the tape machine while answering a telephone.

Officials of the Watergate special prosecution force refused to provide details of the whereabouts of the tape, or how it was being protected.

But a U.S. district court source said it was transported to New York late Thursday in a metal box lined with material that would repel any magnetic field capable of causing additional obliterations. This precaution was taken in anticipation that the tape might be car-

ried near electronic equipment with a strong magnetic field, the source said.

All tapes taken to the New York factory will be accompanied by six marshals, the source said. While the tapes are being examined in Federal Scientific's laboratory, three marshals will be present at all times.

At the plant, on 131st street, between Broadway and 12th street, officials refused to comment on the progress of the tests.

A spokesman for Mark R. Weis, the firm's vice president for acoustics research and a member of the panel of experts, said, "... we

believed to be connected to attempts to capture latent signals from the erased portions of the tapes. White House special counsel Leonard Garment has said that there may be other "gaps" in the subpoenaed tapes.

By filtering and amplifying signals left on the erased portions, it is possible to recreate original conversations with the aid of computers, according to acoustics experts.

This can be accomplished, according to the experts, as long as the tape has not been repeatedly passed through a strong magnetic field.

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