

NYTimes
**SIRICA STARTS JOB
OF HEARING TAPES**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—
Chief Judge John J. Sirica, with
only his law clerk for company,
began today the long job of
sifting out the White House
Watergate tape recordings.

From 11:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.,
with a short lunch break, the
chief judge of the United States
District Court and his clerk,
D. Todd Christofferson, sat
listening to some of the 10
tapes supplied by the White
House. The tapes were played
in a jury room, heavily guarded
by United States marshalls.

Mr. Christfferson said J. Fred
Buzhardt Jr., special counsel to
the President and Carl B. Feld-
baum, of the Watergate special
prosecutor's office, both ap-
peared briefly in the morning.
Mr. Buzhardt, he said, marked
the beginning and ending of the

subpoenaed portions of the
tapes. DEC 4 1973

Judge Sirica's job is to de-
termine what portion of the
recordings should be turned
over the Watergate grand jury.

Mr. Christofferson said that
the judge would resume listen-
ing to the tapes late this week
after further court hearings this
week into the mysterious 18-
minute buzzing on one key
tape. The buzzing blots out all
conversation between President
Nixon and his former chief of
staff, H. R. Haldeman.

Christmas Lights Urged

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (AP)
—Representative William A.
Barrett, Democrat of Pennsyl-
vania, asked President Nixon
today to suspend energy re-
strictions so people could turn
on lights and otherwise buoy
their morale during the four
days before Christmas. Mr.
Barrett said he made his sug-
gestions in a letter to the
President.