

6 Tape 'Erasure'

Experts Dismissed

Washington

The six experts who did the detective work on 18½ minutes of erased White House Watergate tape have been dismissed with thanks and an admonition not to talk—for a while.

The team's six-month effort discovered how the erasure was made but not who did it.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, advising the panelists of their release, said they were under no further restrictions of silence.

"However, for the sake of caution," he wrote each expert "the court urges that you refrain from public comment about the panel's work until after a jury has been sequestered in the Wa-

tergate coverup case."

Sirica will preside over that trial, scheduled to begin September 30.

The gap was in one of the first tapes subpoenaed from the recorded conversations of then President Richard M. Nixon with his aides.

The panelists were Dr. Richard H. Bolt, a former professor of physics at MIT; Franklin S. Cooper of the University of Connecticut; James L. Flanagan of Bell Laboratories; John G. McKnight, consultant to the dictaphone corp.; Thomas G. Stockham of the University of Utah and Mark R. Weiss, vice president of a New York acoustics research firm.

Associated Press