

Nixon Tapes

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Yielded

Voluntarily

Washington

The Watergate special prosecutor has for the first time won voluntary access to tape recordings made in the Nixon White House, it was learned yesterday.

Until Friday, the only tapes the special prosecutor had obtained were those it demanded for trial purposes through suits and other court actions.

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On Friday, copies of two tape recordings were turned over to the special prosecutor's office by former President Nixon's attorney, Herbert J. Miller Jr.

"These are not for a trial," said a spokesman for the special prosecutor. "They're for an ongoing criminal investigation and they do indicate the beginning of us getting access to evidence we've been trying to get since August."

"A lot of people," he said, "believe we've had access for months. But that's not so. But if this procedure con-

tinues to be followed, we'll be satisfied . . .

"We've worked something out that looks to be a voluntary arrangement . . . and we're now confident we'll get everything we need."

The arrangement worked out is for Miller to review tapes the prosecutor asks to hear; after reviewing the tapes he turns them over to the special prosecutor.

Until recently, the special prosecutor had obtained 54 tapes and 700 pages of documents for uses in trials.

Recently it got two more tapes for use in a trial, and then another two for use in the trial of former Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally.

According to the special prosecutor and the White House, Miller has not himself had direct access to the original tapes. The tapes he hears are duplicates prepared by the Secret Service with all three of the interested parties (White House, Miller and special prosecutor) observing.

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