

President Kennedy's 200 Tapes

Boston

President John F. Kennedy left almost 200 tapes of telephone conversations and presidential meetings, apparently dealing primarily with "highly sensitive foreign policy and national defense matters," it was disclosed yesterday.

The 68 dictabelts and 125 magnetic tapes are now in the Kennedy Library archives, according to an announcement by Dan H. Fenn Jr., director of the John F. Kennedy Library.

The dictabelts are recordings of presidential telephone conversations beginning about September, 1962, and the magnetic tapes recorded presidential meetings beginning in July, 1962, according to Fenn.

FIRST

It was believed the first public confirmation such tapes existed.

The disclosure came one day after it was learned that President Nixon had recorded White House telephone calls and meetings.

Fenn said:

"The Kennedy Library staff has not reviewed this material, nor has it been screened for public release by the screening committee established under the deed of gift turning the material over to the Federal Government.

QUESTIONS

"But the library's impression, after a cursory check, is that almost all of this material deals with highly sensitive foreign policy and national defense matters."

Fenn, reached at his home in Lexington, Mass., said the

staff began researching the files because "we had a lot of questions about it yesterday, last night and this morning.

"I thought earlier we did not have any telephone conversations, but we did."

The fact that the screening committee for the library had not had time to go through 20 million items contributed to the fact the tapes previously had gone unnoticed, Fenn indicated.

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