

Agreement On Tapes Procedure

Washington

The White House will submit to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica a detailed analysis of the presidential Watergate tape recordings for an item-by-item ruling on what portions will be withheld from the Watergate grand jury.

The procedure, worked out yesterday by Sirica with White House counsel J. Fred Buzhardt, follows the October 12 directive of the U.S. Court of Appeals that the judge may decide what parts fall in the categories of executive privilege or national security.

"Before the court examines the materials it will hear argument in closed session on the various claims of privilege," Sirica said in a brief statement.

"The court will thereafter examine the tapes and written material and make individual decisions on each claim of privileges."

Buzhardt would not tell re-

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porters when the White House will have its analysis ready. Another meeting was set for Friday to agree upon a schedule.

President Nixon fought against review of the tape recordings by the judge on the ground that the confidentiality of the office would be breached. But a week ago he suddenly reversed his stand.

The U.S. Court of Appeals had ruled that "we see no justification, on confidentiality grounds, for depriving the grand jury of the best evidence of the conversations available"—the tapes themselves.

It recommended the procedure adopted by Sirica in

his meeting with Buzhardt and two members of the Watergate special prosecution force: that the analysis specify the basis of privilege claimed and that the judge hear arguments on the claim.

Sirica said although he will decide the protests one by one, his ruling will be handed down at one time when his examination is completed.

The nine tapes cover conversations recorded in the President's office between June 20, 1972, and April 15, 1973, with former aides John D. Ehrlichman, H. R. Halde- man, John N. Mitchell and John W. Dean III.

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