

Sirica Needs Time to Study Tapes

Washington

Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said yesterday it will take several weeks for a panel of technical experts to determine if President Nixon's subpoenaed Watergate tapes had been tampered with or altered.

Sirica said, while the experts are making their decision, he will review copies of the tapes to determine which portions, if any, will be turned over as evidence to the Watergate grand jury.

Sirica's announcement came in a revised schedule on the handling of the tapes agreed to by the Watergate prosecutors and White House lawyers.

Hearings on the nonexistence of two critical White House conversations related to Watergate will resume November 26.

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