

NIXON SECRETARY 'UPSET' ON TAPE

Is Said to Feel That Lawyers
Have Distorted Her Role

By LESLEY OELSNER
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—

Rose Mary Woods, the President's secretary, is "awfully upset," her lawyer said tonight, about the way that the White House lawyers have been handling the case of the 18-minute "gap" in a Watergate tape and the way that they have been portraying her role in creating that gap.

The lawyer, Charles S. Rhyne, made clear that he too, was upset about the way the White House lawyers had dealt with Miss Woods.

On Monday, Miss Woods testified that she inadvertently pressed the wrong button on her tape recorder while reviewing the tape last Oct. 1. When she realized her mistake, she replayed the tape, she said, and found that for a few minutes, all she could hear was a "shrill" buzzing.

Bubhardt Statement

Miss Woods testified that she did not think her "terrible mistake," as she had phrased it, could have obliterated the entire 18-minute segment. But in a written document presented to the court Monday in the President's behalf, one of his lawyers, J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., said that the entire gap was believed to have been caused by that error.

Newsweek magazine quoted Mr. Rhyne in its edition to be

released to news stands tomorrow as telling a friend that the White House lawyers were "throwing" Miss Woods "to the wolves," and that they had sent her to court "like a lamb to the slaughter."

In a telephone interview tonight, Mr. Rhyne said that he did not know "where Newsweek got those quotes," for he had not spoken to anyone from the magazine or indeed, he said, discussed the case with any of his friends.

But he readily conceded—as he had indicated at times in court last week—that he was unhappy with the manner in which the President's legal staff had been dealing with Miss Woods.

And, asked whether he was critical of Mr. Nixon as well, Mr. Rhyne said, "I represent my client against the whole world."

He said, though, that he did not have "the slightest idea what Nixon knows, or anything like that."

Mr. Rhyne's complaints go back to Miss Woods's first appearance in the case last Nov. 8. At that point, testifying in Federal Court here before Judge John J. Sirica, Miss Woods told of using "every possible precaution" in transcribing the tape recordings.