

NYTimes  
**SIRICA STARTS JOB  
OF HEARING TAPES**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—  
Chief Judge John J. Sirica, with  
only his law clerk for company,  
began today the long job of  
sifting out the White House  
Watergate tape recordings.

From 11:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.,  
with a short lunch break, the  
chief judge of the United States  
District Court and his clerk,  
D. Todd Christofferson, sat  
listening to some of the 10  
tapes supplied by the White  
House. The tapes were played  
in a jury room, heavily guarded  
by United States marshalls.

Mr. Christfferson said J. Fred  
Buzhardt Jr., special counsel to  
the President and Carl B. Feld-  
baum, of the Watergate special  
prosecutor's office, both ap-  
peared briefly in the morning.  
Mr. Buzhardt, he said, marked  
the beginning and ending of the

subpoenaed portions of the  
tapes. DEC 4 1973

Judge Sirica's job is to de-  
termine what portion of the  
recordings should be turned  
over the Watergate grand jury.

Mr. Christofferson said that  
the judge would resume listen-  
ing to the tapes late this week  
after further court hearings this  
week into the mysterious 18-  
minute buzzing on one key  
tape. The buzzing blots out all  
conversation between President  
Nixon and his former chief of  
staff, H. R. Haldeman.

**Christmas Lights Urged**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (AP)  
—Representative William A.  
Barrett, Democrat of Pennsyl-  
vania, asked President Nixon  
today to suspend energy re-  
strictions so people could turn  
on lights and otherwise buoy  
their morale during the four  
days before Christmas. Mr.  
Barrett said he made his sug-  
gestions in a letter to the  
President.