

Paul Fisher: The technical experts assigned to analyze the subpoenaed Watergate tapes delivered their preliminary findings to Judge Sirica today. Regarding that one tape containing 18 minutes of electronic hum, their conclusion directly contradicts the explanation offered by the White House, and Paz Cohen has details from Washington.

Paz Cohen: Technical experts decided today that Rose Mary Woods' office equipment could not have caused the 18-minute buzz by itself. In any event, the experts also determined there is no way to get at the conversation beneath the buzz. That conversation took place June 20th of last year and allegedly included discussion of Watergate.

The technicians' decision was made public today by Judge Sirica, who hired the men last month. Sirica issued a statement summarizing the findings so far and projecting early January as the end date for the study. Woods herself has said she might have pushed the wrong button on the tape machine and wiped out five minutes of the conversation.

J. Fred Buzhardt, Nixon's lawyer, testified in court that he could nearly duplicate the tape's buzz by using Woods' office equipment. After Sirica released the technicians' findings today, Buzhardt repeated his claim. As he ran to his car Buzhardt said, "We got the sound working with the lamp, the typewriter and the Uher recorder. We did."

This is Paz Cohen, Pacifica, in Washington.