

Ed Nixon Belittles Watergate Case

Washington

Edward Nixon, the President's youngest brother, said yesterday he thinks the Watergate scandal is "a tempest in a teapot."

He also expressed the view that Mr. Nixon's personal secretary Rose Mary Woods, could have mistakenly caused the controversial 18-minute gap in the June 20 tape conversation between President Nixon and his former chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman.

"I've known Rose Mary Woods for years and I don't think she's mechanical," he said. "I'm sure she could have made a mistake and so could I."

Edward Nixon attended the White House pre-Christmas worship service Sunday after spending the night in the executive mansion.

Another guest was Nixon's son-in-law, David Eisenhower, who said that he thought

that the 18-minute gap "was damaging."

Asked about Watergate, Nixon told reporters: "I think it's a tempest in the teapot. There are a lot of things that should not have been done in ever Administration in this country. This Administration is no exception."

Referring to the tapes of Mr. Nixon's Watergate conversations, he said "There are lots of unfortunate things that have come to light which I was not aware of or why they took place."

The President's daughter, Julie Eisenhower, said that if Miss Woods had caused the gap in the tapes "of course it was not done deliberately."

"She's a woman of complete integrity," said Julie, "she would never do anything of a criminal nature. And that's a criminal act."

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