

Nixon Aide Denies He Erased Tape

Washington

Stephen B. Bull, a special assistant to President Nixon said last night that a number of persons in addition to himself had had access to the June 20, 1972, tape recording on which a large segment was erased.

In an interview, Bull said that he denied "categorically" any suggestion that he had erased 18½ minutes from the tape, which contained recordings of conversations between Mr. Nixon and a chief assistant, H. R. Haldeman.

A panel of technical experts reported yesterday that the erasures had been

methodically carried out, apparently eliminating the possibility that they had been inadvertently caused by Rose Mary Woods, the President's personal secretary.

That prompted speculation on Capitol Hill and elsewhere that Bull must have been involved somehow in the erasure, because he, Miss Woods and the President himself had been frequently identified as those with access to the tapes.

Secret Service records introduced in U.S. District Court here last November 1 showed, for example, that Bull took 26 tapes from an executive office building

safe the preceding June 4, but had never logged them back in.

Bull, a 31-year-old former businessman who has worked at the White House since the inception of the Nixon administration, most recently as appointments secretary, insisted that there were "a number of other people" at the White House who had had access both to the June 20 tape and to the Uher 5000 recorder on which, according to the panel of experts, the erasure was made.

Bull refused to identify the others.

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