

# EXPERTS EXPLAIN TAPES TO SIRICA

Tell What Evidence Leads  
Them to Believe Speech  
Had Been Blotted Off

By ANTHONY RIPLEY  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15—  
Armed with home-made charts,  
six experts on tape recordings  
presented their findings today  
to Chief Judge John J. Sirica  
in United States District Court.

At stake was a central political  
issue—the President's cred-  
ibility and whether his office  
had tampered with a tape rec-  
ording made in Mr. Nixon's  
offices on June 20, 1972, three  
days after Watergate scandals  
broke.

That tape contained an 18.5-  
minute buzzing sound, and the  
issue was whether the buzzing  
happened by accident or resign.

The panel did not touch on  
the politics of it, however. It  
dealt, as scientists often do,  
with only the immediate tech-  
nical problem in front of them.  
Nevertheless, its findings were  
rich in political impact.

The panel's unanimous find-  
ing was that the tape section  
had been erased and the buzz-  
ing sound recorded on it by a  
tape recorder that once sat on  
the desk of President Nixon's  
secretary, Rose Mary Woods.

## Language of Electronics

Headed by Dr. Richard H. Bolt of Lincoln, Mass., an elec-  
tronic consultant, the panel de-  
livered its findings in the lan-  
guage of electronics.

Dr. Bolt, 62 years old, and  
Prof. Thomas C. Stockham Jr.,  
40, of the computer science de-  
partment of the University of  
Utah, said that they had found  
"signatures" of the record-  
ing head and erasure head. By  
searching carefully, they said,  
they captured bits of voices that  
speech had been blotted off the  
tape.

Dr. Bolt demonstrated the tape  
recorder for the court.

The other members of the  
panel are:

Mark R. Weiss, a vice president  
at the Federal Scientific Cor-  
poration's laboratories in Man-  
hattan.

James L. Flanagan, who has  
spent 16 years with the Bell  
Laboratories in Murray Hill,  
N.J.

Franklin S. Cooper, president of  
Haskins Laboratories in New  
Haven.

John G. McKnight of the Scully-  
Metrotech Division of the Dic-  
taphone Corporation in Califor-  
nia.

They spread their charts be-  
fore the court, showing how  
bits of voice had escaped or  
been only recorded over with-  
out erasing.

They brought in a green  
chalk board, and talked about  
how recording tape could be  
"developed" like a photograph,  
the structure of recording and  
erasure heads on a tape record-  
er, a faulty bridge rectifier and  
what they called "flutter" on  
recordings.

### Sit Below Bench

They sat together below and  
to the right of Judge Sirica's  
high bench. Dr. Bolt, who is  
chairman of Board, Bolt, Ber-  
anek & Newman, Inc., a con-  
sulting firm in electronics in  
Cambridge, Mass., was the in-  
formal chairman of the group.

He said that the members  
had first been called together  
the evening of Sunday, Nov. 18,  
at the Executive Office Build-

ing. They had been chosen by  
common agreement by both  
sides—the Watergate special  
prosecutor and the White  
House lawyers.

"We were briefed on the  
general nature of the program  
wrote out a program of ap-  
proach," Dr. Bolt said. It was  
quickly approved, and "I've  
done almost nothing else for  
two months," he said.

They were not allowed to  
listen to other portions of the  
tapes, and two Federal mar-  
shals watched to see that they  
did not. Also watching were  
Richard Hauser, one of the  
White House lawyers, and two  
men from the special prosecu-  
tor's staff, Carl B. Feldbaum  
and James Boczar.

There were three full-scale  
meetings at Dr. Bolt's labora-  
tory, at Mr. Weiss's and at the  
University of Utah.

Each man individually made  
his own tests, as well, Dr.  
Bolt said.

Late this afternoon, Dr. Bolt  
was answering questions in  
court on cross-examination by  
James D. St. Clair, the chief  
lawyer for the White House.

He had gone over all the  
ways to "de-energize" the tape  
recorder and produce the tell-  
tale "signatures" on the tape  
to show that it had been shut  
off by using the row of but-  
tons on its face.

Or at least he thought that  
the panel had.

"What happens if the plug is  
pulled out of the wall?" Mr. St.  
Clair asked.

The panel members got to-  
gether for a discussion, and  
then Dr. McKnight took the  
stand. He said that that was  
one test the panel had not tried  
on the tape recorder in ques-  
tion.

### White's Veto Overridden

BOSTON, Jan. 15 (AP)—The  
Boston City Council voted yes-  
terday to override Mayor Kev-  
in H. White's veto of a pro-  
posed ordinance that would al-  
low shotguns in all police pa-  
trol cars. The vote was 7 to 2.