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**Experts Face Questions  
On Nixon-Tape Findings**

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—A panel of electronics experts will return to Chief Judge John J. Sirica's courtroom Friday to face further cross-examination by White House lawyers.

At the center of the discussion in United States District Court is whether three tiny bits of voice-like sound still on the tape mean that the tape was once filled with voices that were erased when the buzzing sound was recorded onto the tape.

The six experts were unanimous in their findings that the 18½ minutes of buzzing on a crucial tape made in President Nixon's office on June 20, 1973, was caused at a later time by at least five erasures and rerecordings.

The experts had been selected "jointly by the special prosecution force and the White House counsel," according to Judge Sirica.

Their selection was made with White House participation, a Nixon spokesman, Gerald R. Warren, conceded today despite the statement yesterday by a White House lawyer, James D. St. Clair, that "I'm going to talk to my own experts."

#### Quick Agreement on Four

One source close to the case said that four of the names were known to both the White House and the Watergate investigators when they were first proposed and were easily agreed upon. A fifth was proposed by the Watergate special prosecutor and checked out and approved by the White House.

The sixth was named by the White House and checked and approved by the other side, the source said.

The source would not identify those chosen by each side.

The panel members are Richard H. Bolt, chairman of Bolt, Beranek & Newman, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass.; Prof. Thomas G. Stockham Jr., of the University of Utah; Mark R. Weiss, vice president of the Federal Scientific Corporation, of Manhattan; James R. Flanagan, head of the acoustic research department at Bell Laboratories, of Murray Hill, N. J.; Franklin Cooper, president of Haskins Laboratories, of New Haven; and John C. McKnight, consultant to the Scully-Metrotech Division of the Dictaphone Corporation, in California.

Though some have gone home, the majority are believed to be staying at a Washington hotel awaiting Friday's hearing. They have been asked not to talk to newsmen until after they are finished testifying.

The source said that both the White House and the special prosecutor had been told "a long time ago" that all six were in common agreement that there were marks visible on the tapes after chemical treatment that showed erasure and rerecording.

"The only disagreements I know of are whether more tests should be held," the source said.

Another source close to the case said he was amazed that "six experts can agree on any subject."

At the center of their testimony is the Uher 5000 model tape recorder that once stood on the desk of President Nixon's secretary, Rose Mary Woods.

When sound has already been recorded on a tape—music, voices or any other noise—it must be erased before new sounds can be clearly recorded or the result will be a jumble of the new and the old sounds.

To do this, an erase "head" is held against the tape by the machine. On the Uher, this erase head is like a tiny horseshoe magnet with a bar between its two poles, the experts explained yesterday. The magnet poles and bar are like three tiny vertical steel sticks held against the tape.

When the magnet in the erase head is charged with electricity, it evenly scatters the magnetic particles in the tape, thus destroying all patterns of magnetic density that produce sound.

When applied to the tape, the erase head wipes away everything that passes by. When "record" is pressed, the erase head goes into action. When "stop" or other buttons that disengage the recording head are pressed, the erase head withdraws, leaving four vertical lines across the tape, roughly marking its outline and called its "signature."

Just a short space away is the recording head, which takes the erased tape and rerecords new sounds onto it. The record head is a magnet without a bar and its signature is a single line across the tape.

Tiny particles of a speech-like sound were found on the tapes in three sections, the experts said.

The panel said the sounds had been found beneath the buzzing sound. In these three tiny areas, the tape was never erased, they explained, and the buzzing sound was superimposed on the original voice-like sounds.

The panel called these three areas "windows" and said they were due to the slight slippage as the tape recorder continued to run a very short way after the machine was shut off.

This slight running of the tape past the record and erase heads means a portion of the erased tape goes by the recording head and remains erased.

In the same way, a portion of the tape containing any original recording gets past the erase head, too.

When the machine is turned on and begins to record again, the erased gap with no buzz remains on the tape and the small unerased gap goes by the recording head and picks up the overlay of new sound.

It was in these windows where sound overlays were found by the experts.