

Lawyer Says Miss Woods Was 'Set Up'

Washington

The attorney for Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's private secretary, charged yesterday that White House lawyers and court appointed electronic experts deliberately sought to pin the blame on Miss Woods for the 18½-minute gap on a crucial tape in the Watergate case.

The lawyer, Charles S. Rhyne, a former president of the American Bar Association, spoke to reporters while Miss Woods gave day long testimony before the federal grand jury investigating the controversial erasure on the tape.

Rhyne said the panel of tape experts was called into the case after White House lawyers met secretly with Watergate prosecutors and U.S. District Judge J. Sirica on November 20 and "pleaded Miss Woods guilty" for the erasure.

"Nobody has ever been set up any more," Rhyne said. "And then they turned the experts loose to prove it."

The experts, he said, "didn't look for anything else except this prejudgment already arrived at. They were given the job to prove it was her, and they went out to do it."

Asked under whose authority the White House lawyers had acted, Rhyne replied: "My belief is they had no authority to do it, although I have nothing to base it on."

United Press