

Nixon Secretary Reveals He Has a Tapes Cache

By Jack Anderson

Washington

President Nixon maintains a mysterious "private, personal file" of intimate conversations on dictabelts that he has cached in a top security filing cabinet in the White House basement.

This is the secret testimony of the President's secretary, Rose Mary Woods, given during a two-hour session on February 20 to Senate Watergate lawyers.

The President, she swore, "from time to time, for his own private, personal files does do some tapes. I have been in the Lincoln sitting room at times when he will remember something from a conversation and put on a dictabelt."

At that point, apparently realizing she had let a White House cat out of the bag, Miss Woods paused and hastily added, "such as 'Julie said this or that to me,'"

She said "Those personal, private dictabelts . . . are put in an envelope — maybe we get two or three at a time — they may be three weeks apart.

"We have no idea of what is on them — they are his own personal, private things which are not transcribed. They are put in an envelope, sealed up and the date we received them is put on the envelope."

As far as we can determine, this is the first mention of this hidden stash of tapes. None, according to

Watergate investigators, has ever been turned over to the special prosecutor, the Senate Watergate Committee or the House impeachment panel.

Pressed during her secret testimony by assistant Watergate counsel Terry Lenzner, Miss Woods said the tapes are "kept in his filing cabinets" in a secure area "on the basement floor in the west wing" of the White House.

Although not under oath for her testimony, Miss Woods after reading an 80-page transcript of it, swore to it on Thursday. She made these other points:

- She has made a detailed statement to the Internal Revenue Service on the \$100,000 donation given by Howard Hughes to Bebe Rebozo for President Nixon. The statement, prepared by White House lawyer Fred Buzhardt, was requested in connection with an IRS investigation of Rebozo.

- Miss Woods' brother, Joe Woods, an ex-FBI agent and now a sheriff in Illinois, was considered for a security job by White House Watergate gumshoe Jack Caulfield. Miss Woods told her brother "not to join with them unless he was in charge because I think my brother is a lot brighter than any group Jack Caulfield would have gotten together."

- Unlike President Nixon who always seemed to make

a profit in his dealings with Rebozo, Miss Woods said she "took a capital gains loss" when she sold her shares in Rebozo's Fishers Island real estate project. She disposed of them, she thought, through former White House lawyer Edward Morgan.

While often biting and even sarcastic, Miss Woods' testimony is full of insights into the White House and the President. At one point, she illustrated poignantly his mania for saving every scrap of Nixoniana.

"He saves everything" she said, her tone softening. "He saves place cards, menus even. One Halloween, we were at Camp David and he and Mrs. Nixon invited me to dinner . . . the steward put a colored mask on each of the three plates — I know Mrs. Nixon put hers in the wastebasket and I did mine," she said.

But Mr. Nixon sent his mask to Miss Woods to be "sealed in an envelope and put away." He also saved "little notes from Julie — from Tricia," all with the same pack rat diligence that preserved the Watergate tapes currently being used to indict his closest associates.

Watertown Ice

New York

The lowest temperature yesterday was 7 degrees at Watertown, N.Y.

United Press