

# The 'Little Red Box' Found at

Salt Lake City

A former Democratic national chairman said yesterday that the "little red box" mentioned in transcripts of White House tapes apparently was the one found at the Watergate Hotel more than two months after the break-in.

Jean Westwood, who resigned as the party's national chairman late in 1972, said in a telephone interview in Arizona that she probably was the woman alluded to in the transcript.

The mysterious box was discussed in a transcript of a tape-recorded White House conversation among President Nixon and his aides H. R. Haldeman and John W. Dean III on Sept. 15, 1972.

After Mr. Nixon asked whether the box had been found and Dean said the FBI was going "to pursue the box," Haldeman said: "The latest public story was that she handed it over to Edward Bennett Williams."

Mrs. Westwood said she probably was the one mentioned as having turned the box over to party attorney Williams.

According to the transcript, Mr. Nixon said: "The bureau better get over pretty quick and get that little red box. We want it cleared up. We want to get to the bottom of it. If anybody is guilty over here, we want to know."

Mrs. Westwood, emphasizing that details were hazy after more than a year, gave this account of the box:

Early in September, 1972, two women, whom she did not identify, in the Democratic office at the Watergate complex decided to investigate a hole in a wall.

The hole opened into a shaft that had been cut during the 1968 campaign to handle communication wires linking the hotel and the Democrats' office.

When the two women stood on a chair and looked in the hole, they found that the box — which was empty — had holes in it and

"looked like a fire alarm box."

The FBI "just sort of laughed" when first told about the box and "we decided we were being overly suspicious and forgot about it."

However, shortly after that Labor Day, she described the discovery at a Salt Lake City news confer-

ence.

Then, about a week to ten days after the box's discovery, the FBI came back, asked for the box and the Democrats turned it over.

Mrs. Westwood said she never saw it again and said she does not know whether the box was part of a bugging scheme.

*Associated Press*

## Watergate