

TAPE GAPS LINKED TO PITCH OF VOICE

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WASHINGTON, May 6—The pitch of voices and the on-off controls on the President's taping system produced a large number of the "unintelligible" sections on the tape transcripts published last week, the President's counsel, J. Fred Buzhardt, said Monday. 6 MAY

He explained that the system was voice actuated — that is, turned on by the sound of voices and stopped when there were pauses in speech.

"When there is a hesitation in speech the gain control usually moves from the lowest point of sensitivity to the highest point," he told a reporter for Westinghouse Broadcasting Company outside the Federal Courthouse here today.

"At the same time the tape reels which have stopped turning with the interruption then accelerate to pick up playing speed," Mr. Buzhardt said.

He called the result a "swurping" sound.

"The combination of the gain control movement plus the acceleration of the tape through the recorder, produce a swurping noise which normally obscures the first few syllables spoken after the interruption of speech," Mr. Buzhardt said.

He said also that the voice tones made a difference. "Bass" tones in President Nixon's voice and the voice of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell do not record as well as "high pitched" ones like that of John W. Dean 3d, the President's former counsel, he said.