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Bibliographer Calls Transcripts a 5-Typist Job

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WASHINGTON, May 23 — William B. Todd, a bibliographer by profession, took a busman's holiday one recent Sunday and sat down with a pencil and paper and a copy of the White House version of the Oval Office tapes. Among his conclusions was that at least five different typists worked on the transcriptions.

The number of persons involved in transcribing and typing the tapes is a matter that the White House and its spokesmen have declined to be specific about.

But Mr. Todd said in a telephone interview yesterday from Austin, Tex., where he is on the English faculty of the University of Texas, that he thought he could make at least a very educated guess that there were at least five.

He based his estimate, he said, on such details as three different terms used at different points in the transcript to indicate that words or phrases have been cut — "omitted," "deleted" and "removed."

His analysis also indicated, he said, that one typist used "unintelligible" where another

**Scrutinizes Such Details as
Identifications and Words
Substituted for Deletions**

used "inaudible" — although the White House has said the two words were used specifically to mean two different things.

"At first glance," he wrote in a letter outlining his findings, "there appear to be at least five distinct sections, and in one of these there is undoubtedly a substantial transfer of expletives into the 'unintelligible' category."

Another point he cited was that, in one conversation, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, was identified by a marginal "Z". In another, Mr. Ziegler was "RZ."

Mr. Todd said that he read the transcriptions, in paperback-book form, "from parenthesis to parenthesis," keeping a tally of the number of characterizations, adjectives, expletives, inaudibles and unintelligibles attributed to President Nixon and the other three principals in most of the Oval Office conversations, John W. Dean 3d, H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman.

President Nixon, he said, "far surpasses" the other three "collectively, both in his more vigorous language and in the other verbiage which his transcribers appear not to understand."

By Mr. Todd's count, 17 characterizations, 12 adjectives and 72 expletives are edited from Mr. Nixon's language, and there are 372 inaudibles and 703 unintelligibles.

Mr. Todd added that it was his "general impression" that Mr. Nixon spoke "less than any of his consultants," typically asking a five line-or six-line question and receiving a 10-line or 12-line reply.

Mr. Todd said that analytical bibliography, his specialty, is concerned with "textual criticism," looking at printed matter from "a mechanistic point of view." He has not, thus far, read the transcripts in the usual sense of reading, he said.

Ken W. Clawson, communications director to the President, said he had no idea how many typists had worked on the transcripts and added, laughing: "Why don't you ask Jeane Dixon?" Miss Dixon claims the ability to foretell the future.