

# Ford Won't Tape Talks in White House

Washington

President Ford will not tape record White House conversations, press secretary Jerry terHorst said yesterday.

TerHorst's announcement came shortly after White House lawyers — in their final act for Richard M. Nixon as President — disclosed that one of Mr. Nixon's missing Watergate tapes had been found and that another subpoenaed conversation was only half recorded because the tape ran out.

"Tapes will not be used in the Ford administration," terHorst said in his first news briefing, held three hours after Mr. Ford's inauguration.

Asked how the change of presidents would affect the disposition of Mr. Nixon's subpoenaed tapes and documents, terHorst replied: "This question has to be answered by the president's legal office."

He said all tapes from the Nixon administration — whether subpoenaed or not — are still in the custody of the president's legal office.

Mr. Ford has consistently sided with congressional critics of Mr. Nixon's refusal to surrender subpoenaed tapes and documents. Even as vice president, he urged that Mr. Nixon surrender the materials.

White House lawyers, acting "on behalf of the president" for the last time, strode into U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica's courtroom just moments before Mr. Nixon's resignation was officially delivered to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger yesterday morning.

They handed Sirica <sup>7 A.D.C.</sup> one tape which only Wednesday they had reported could not be found and submitted a detailed "index and analysis" of 22 other surrendered to Sirica earlier this week.

Both the tape that was found and the one the index said was only half recorded involved talks Mr. Nixon had with key aide Charles W. Colson — now in prison for a Watergate-related crime — in January and March last year as the crisis deepened.

The turnover of the newly discovered tape and of the index virtually completed Mr. Nixon's compliance with a Supreme Court order to surrender vital evidence for the Watergate cover-up trial next month.

It was that July 24 order — and his compliance with it — that triggered the firestorm which swept Mr. Nixon from office.

Since then, Mr. Nixon has turned over to Sirica 53 of the 64 tapes subpoenaed last spring by special prosecutor Leon Jaworski for possible use as trial evidence. The

other nine have not been found, apparently because most were never recorded.

White House lawyer J.J. Chester gave Sirica the tape of a Jan. 8, 1973, Nixon-Colson meeting. It apparently fulfilled Jaworski's demand for a conversation between the two men about bugging conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.

The "index and analysis" revealed that the tape of an evening Nixon-Colson telephone call on March 21, 1973, ran out during their conversation, leaving 17 minutes unrecorded.

That was the day John W. Dean III had his "cancer on the presidency" meeting with Nixon and the day on which — until this week — Nixon said he first learned of the cover-up.

United Press