

Sirica Listens On

Washington

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica is continuing to listen to the secret tapes of former President Nixon.

Sirica is expected to rule today on several claims of executive privilege made by Mr. Nixon and to forward a number of the tapes to special prosecutor Leon Jaworski for possible use at the coverup trial due to start a month from now.

Of the 64 tapes Jaworski subpoenaed last spring, Mr. Nixon surrendered 55 after the Supreme Court ordered

him to. The other nine, the White House said, could not be found.

Sirica must listen to them all and decide which are relevant as evidence. He must also rule on Mr. Nixon's claims that some should still be kept secret on grounds of national security or executive privilege.

The judge already has sent Jaworski five of the tapes — all among those for which the White House released edited transcripts last April and for which no privilege claims were filed.

A spokesman for the judge said Sirica would work through the weekend. He listens, hour after hour, in a locked and windowless jury room near his chambers with only his law clerk present.

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