

Saxbe Ruling On Tapes Is Awaited

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The White House is awaiting a ruling by Attorney General William B. Saxbe on who should have custody of former President Nixon's taped conversations, a spokesman said yesterday.

Larry Speakes, an assistant press secretary, said presidential legal counsel Philip W. Buchen asked Saxbe for the ruling after Buchen received a subpoena to deliver some of the Nixon tapes to the attorney for J. Spencer Oliver, a former Democratic official whose phone was bugged in the Watergate case.

The subpoena requires Buchen to produce by Sept. 12 all taped discussions between Mr. Nixon and his former aides during the period from May 26, 1972, to June 21, 1972.

The time involved covers the immediate period before the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate and the conversations following the break-in.

Oliver's lawyer was seeking the tapes in connection with a suit brought against the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Speakes said Saxbe had been asked a week ago for a ruling on the overall legal status of the tapes.