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Ruling on Watergate Tapes

Washington

A federal judge yesterday ordered that Watergate tape recordings subpoenaed by the Democratic National Committee and one of its employees remain under the control of White House counsel Philip W. Buchen.

U.S. District Judge John

H. Pratt told the Justice Department to insure that the tapes subpoenaed by the committee and by R. Spencer Oliver remain under Buchen's control rather than being given to the General Services Administration.

Under terms of the agreement reached between Mr.

Nixon and President Ford, the White House tapes of Watergate conversations are considered Mr. Nixon's property but will be held by the GSA.

The agreement gives Mr. Nixon the right to deny access to the tapes and to go to court to fight any subpoenas for them.