

Nixon Tapes Are Secure, Ford Aide Tells Hill Unit

Associated Press

White House counsel Philip W. Buchen has told a House subcommittee that safeguards protecting former President Nixon's tapes "could not be thwarted by any possible prior destruction" before Congress could act to preserve them.

Chairman John Brademas (D-Ind.) of the House printing subcommittee said in releasing Buchen's letter that he feels "grave alarm" over what he called Buchen's unwilling-

ness to give Congress specific assurances that the tapes are secure and will remain so until Congress can act.

A Senate-passed bill before Brademas' subcommittee would prohibit destruction of Mr. Nixon's tapes or papers without Congress' approval.

Brademas sought from Buchen assurances that the material would not be destroyed before Congress could act, notwithstanding the Ford ad-

ministration's agreement with Mr. Nixon requiring destruction of the tapes upon the former President's death.

Buchen replied in a letter dated Oct. 16 that the tapes and papers would remain under White House control until the Watergate special prosecutor's office agreed to specific arrangements giving it subpoena access to documents for Watergate trial proceedings.