

# Judge Eases Rule on Nixon Data Unsealing Them to Defendants

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 (AP) — Federal District Judge

Charles R. Richey issued today an amended order slightly relaxing the seal that he had put on former President Richard M. Nixon's tape recordings and papers.

The judge affirms his requirement that the papers and tapes be kept in Washington at least temporarily but he opened them to Nixon White House staff members who are being tried or investigated in the Watergate cases.

Judge Richey also said that the data could be opened to Government officials "for the purposes of current Government business" with President Ford's consent and notification to Mr. Nixon's lawyers.

## Accord Blocked

The judge's original order, issued yesterday, blocked at least temporarily an arrangement reached between Mr. Nixon and President Ford on the disposition of the tapes and documents at the time that Mr. Nixon's pardon was negotiated.

Judge Richey had ordered that the papers must remain in Washington rather than being transferred to California as the

agreement provided, at least until the major issues of various lawsuits over the materials were settled, including a determination of who owns the Presidential papers.

The judge said that he had issued the amended order at the request of complainants and with their general consent to "preserve the status quo" of the materials. The parties include Mr. Nixon and a committee of reporters.

## Amended Text

The amended order provides that "any person either now or previously a member of the White House staff shall be afforded access under current access procedures established by defendants, with or without his/her attorney present, to said materials which comprise his/her files while a member of the White House staff and be allowed to take notes regarding same but not to make copies thereof."

Under yesterday's order, Mr. Nixon was allowed to look at the papers, or, if his health prevented him from coming to Washington, to have copies made and sent to him.

Judge Richey limited access of former White House staff members "solely for any purposes relating to criminal investigations or prosecutions."

Yesterday's order would have prohibited access to the data by several former White House officials, including H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, who had previously had access to their White House files now included in the Nixon Presidential papers. Messrs. Haldeman, Ehrlichman and three other Nixon Administration or campaign officials are on trial here in the Watergate cover-up case.