

Airing of Tapes Fought

Attorneys for former President Nixon said yesterday that their client, the chief speaker on the White House tapes that have been introduced as evidence in the Watergate cover-up trial, is opposed to having them broadcast publicly.

The legal position was stated in a brief filed with U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, who is considering a request by major radio and television networks to broadcast to the public the tapes that have already been played to the press and public attending the trial.

Nixon's attorneys said that the playing of the tapes as criminal evidence does not mean that "all of the interests in privacy (of the conversations) have disappeared."

They said the tapes contained remarks that "are embarrassing to other individuals—even to heads of foreign states—and some reflect opinions perhaps not well-considered by the speaker."

The attorneys claimed further that the broadcasters had no special press rights that automatically enable them to make their own copies of the tapes and broadcast them.