

CONGRESS PASSES NIXON TAPES BILL

House Sends Measure for
 U.S. Custody to Ford

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (AP) —The House passed and sent to the White House today a bill requiring the Federal Government to take possession of former President Richard M. Nixon's papers and tapes.

The unanimous vote came only hours after the Senate amended the measure and returned it to the House for final passage.

President Ford has given no indication whether he will sign the bill into law. The measure generated no controversy in Congress.

The bill was introduced by Senator Gaylord Nelson, Democrat of Wisconsin, after Nixon negotiated an agreement with the White House under which he would donate the tapes to the Federal Government by 1979.

The agreement provided that Mr. Nixon could order the destruction of any tapes he chooses after 1979, and that all tapes must be destroyed upon Mr. Nixon's death or on Sept. 1, 1984, whichever occurs first.

Nixon Would Get Access

The Senate bill makes the General Services Administration, the Government's housekeeping agency, the permanent repository of the tapes. The measure grants Mr. Nixon access to his Presidential papers but not control of them.

Senator Nelson said the Senate action was a "major step toward preserving the full Watergate story for posterity and for use in related criminal trials."

It was the second time the Senate has voted passage of the bill. After the first passage, the House added an amendment requiring appointment of an independent counsel in case there is a challenge by Mr. Nixon on constitutional grounds.

The Senate deleted the provision.