

Tapes' Release Protested —Fear Of Party Humor

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Richard M. Nixon's lawyers argued today a court decision allowing his Watergate tapes to be copied for public broadcast means they will turn up at cocktail parties and in comedy acts to the everlasting embarrassment of the former president.

In a brief filed in U.S. District Court, Nixon's lawyers asked Judge Gerhard A. Gesell to remove a technical legal barrier so they can immediately appeal his order releasing the tapes publicly once the Watergate cover-up trial is over.

If the order stands, they said, every future demand for Nixon's tapes would have to be weighed partly on the basis that it "will likely be reproduced in the form of cassettes and phonograph records to be played at cocktail parties, to be used in comedy acts or dramatic productions, and otherwise be exploited for every purpose and in every manner that may occur to the imaginative, the enterprising, or the antagonistic recipients of the copies."

They said Nixon has the right to keep his tapes secret since they may prove "embarrassing not only to him but to others whose voices appear on the tapes in candid conversations never intended to be publicly aired."

They said the tapes could also prove embarrassing to those persons discussed in the Nixon meetings who were referred to "perhaps in the kind of off-hand or blunt remarks common in

private conversations between close associates."

At the request of the three major broadcast networks, Gesell ruled Dec. 5 that copies of the Nixon tapes introduced as evidence at the cover-up trial could be made available to them for broadcast on radio and television. His order will not become final until after the trial is over, probably next week.

Nixon's lawyers asked him to finalize the order now so that they may appeal. They charged that release of the tapes would make them available for "every imaginable scheme for commercial exploitation of the conversations."

They said Nixon has a legal right to protect their confidentiality and "not to have them disseminated, advertised, broadcast, and otherwise trumpeted" beyond the necessity for use as evidence in criminal trials.