

Court Asked to Rule On Nixon-Data Law

Attorneys for Richard M. Nixon yesterday asked U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey to block the implementation of a law signed Thursday by President Ford which gives the General Services Administration custody of Nixon's presidential materials.

However, the Nixon attorneys and federal attorneys agreed before Judge Richey later that such a move by the judge was not immediately necessary because no materials will be turned over to the GSA this weekend. Therefore, the law won't be implemented until Monday at the earliest.

The suit, filed by Nixon attorney Herbert J. Miller Jr., asked that the law be ruled unconstitutional on 11 specific grounds, including the right against unlawful search and

the doctrine of separation of powers.

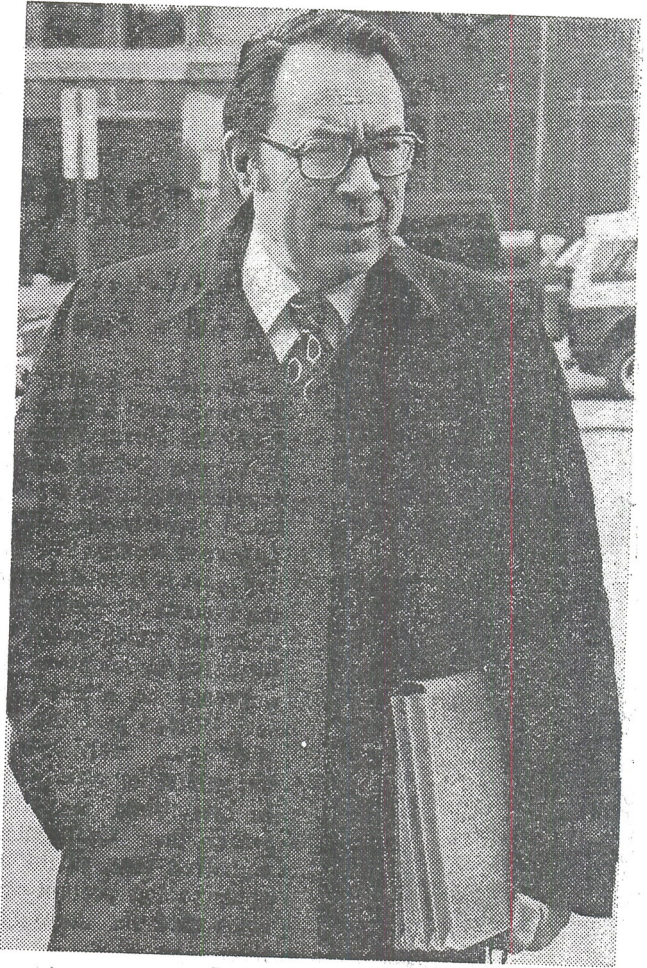
Filing of the suit over the new law is the latest legal action taken by Nixon regarding ownership and custody of his presidential materials.

Richey is expected to rule soon on the main issue outstanding, which he said is whether Nixon or the government legally owns the material and custody.

The White House did not implement that original agreement upon the request of the Watergate special prosecutor's office, and later entered a new agreement that gives the special prosecutor's office first access to documents for use in criminal investigations.

Nixon had previously filed suit to fore the White House to implement the original agreement.

While the status quo is maintained by yesterday's court action, Richey scheduled hearing for Monday at 2 p.m. to further explore the new legislation and its effect on lawsuits over the ownership issue.



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Nixon attorney Herbert J. Miller Jr. arrives at court.

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Soares to Visit India

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20 —Portuguese Foreign Minister Mario Soares will visit India for five days starting Dec. 27, it was announced here today.