

## U.S. Aide Doubts Nixon Tapes Will Be Made Public Until 1977

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WASHINGTON, May 13 (UPI)—Former President Richard M. Nixon's Watergate tapes and documents probably will not be made public until 1977, the chief of the General Services Administration testified today.

Arthur F. Sampson also told a Senate Government Operations subcommittee that "our plans contemplate that virtually all information relating to the abuse of governmental power will be fully processed by 1980."

Under legislation approved last year, the G.S.A. was given custody of all of Mr. Nixon's Presidential tapes, documents, papers and other materials with instructions that they be made public.

Mr. Sampson said that the G.S.A. was still under court order not to begin working on the Nixon materials or releasing them to the public.

The court acted after the constitutionality of the law was challenged. Mr. Sampson said there may be other court actions that would delay the processing.

He estimated that once full-scale processing begins—probably in 1976—"it will take an additional three years to review and release that body of materials defined in that statute as related to abuse of governmental power.

"Thus," he continued, "it

will most likely be 1977 before the public has access to many of the well-known Watergate materials."

### Butterfield Offers Apology

WASHINGTON, May 13 (AP)—Alexander P. Butterfield, who said Sunday that he believed President Nixon had personally approved the Watergate burglary, publicly apologized to the Nixon family today for his statement.

The former White House aide, who first disclosed the existence of the White House tapes to the Senate Watergate committee, did not retract his statements but said he regretted reopening the subject. His Sunday comments were made in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Mr. Butterfield said today that he had agreed to talk to The Associated Press about Watergate only because the subject had come up in a recent interview by a magazine about his present job and future plans. He said that during that first interview he "was careless and allowed the discussion to slip to Watergate and my personal opinions."

Mr. Butterfield said he had wanted to make it clear that he had not intended to reopen the subject of Watergate and that he had talked about it only after questioned by reporters.