

Rules for Nixon Tapes Rejected

Washington

Congressional committees rejected yesterday proposed rules governing the release of White House tapes and documents from the Nixon presidency.

The rules were drafted by Arthur F. Sampson, administrator of the General Services Administration, who was appointed by Mr. Nixon and who has resigned effective October 15.

The Senate is expected to take up a resolution approved unaimously by the Senate Government Operations Committee, which formally disapproves Sampson's proposed rules as inadequate. Committee chairman Abraham Ribicoff (Dem-Conn.) said he expects approval of the resolution without debate or dissent.

The House Administration Subcommittee on Printing took similar action yesterday.

Mr. Nixon has filed a lawsuit in which he claims legal title to his White House documents and asserts the absolute right to limit access.

The issue is expected to reach the Supreme Court, a process which could consume a year or more. Until then, the materials are likely to remain closed to public examination.

One of the rules that Ribicoff objected to would have permitted the GSA to deny public access to documents that "tend to embarrass, damage or harass a living person" if those documents are not related to abuses of governmental powers.

Ribicoff said such a restriction was too broad since much in Mr. Nixon's records could embarrass his former associates.

The Senate committee voted to instruct GSA to submit a new set of proposed rules by October 10.

United Press
