

SFChronicle

# Nixon Data Rules Vetoed

## Washington

Congress yesterday ordered nearly full public disclosure of 42 million White House documents that former President Nixon claims are his personal property.

The Senate, by voice vote and without debate, rejected regulations proposed by Arthur F. Sampson, head of the General Services Administration, which would have limited public access to the tapes, documents, and papers spanning Mr. Nixon's White House years.

The Senate gave Sampson, a Nixon appointee due to step down soon, until October 10 to give Congress new guidelines permit-

ting public access with the fewest possible exceptions.

Under legislation enacted by Congress after Mr. Nixon resigned, the documents became the property of the federal government and available for inspection by any citizen. Mr. Nixon has challenged the law in court, claiming legal title and asserting exclusive right of access.

The case probably will have to be decided by the Supreme Court, a process that could take a year or more. Until then, the documents are expected to be closed to public scrutiny.

The Senate acted under a provision that a vote by either the

Senate or House can disapprove Sampson's guidelines and order new ones.

The GSA regulations would have sealed to the public material which would disclose national security secrets or which are purely personal in nature or which "would tend to embarrass, damage or harass living persons."

Chairman Abraham Ribicoff of the Senate Government Operations Committee said "almost by definition, the Watergate affair is embarrassing to most of those associated with it. If this standard is adopted, virtually all of the Watergate material could conceivably be subject to this restriction."

*United Press*