U.S. Archivist Asks to Move Nixon Tapes

U.S. Archivist James B. Rhoads says that former President Nixon's White House tape recordings "are in danger of deterioration" and need to be moved to a more permanent facility pending the outcome of court cases concerning them.

The statement was made in an affidavit seeking court permission to move the tapes and other White House documents from temporary storage within the White House and the Old Executive Office building.

Pointing out that many of the tapes have not been rewound in more than a year and that the tapes and documents are not stored in climate-controlled rooms, Rhoads is asking permission to ship them under "maximum security" to special rooms at the national records storage facility in Suitland, Md.

A three-judge federal court ruled in January that Congress had acted properly when it placed the tapes and other residential documents under the custody and control of the government.