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Water Damages 180 Boxes of Nixon Documents

Washington SFChronicle

A clogged air conditioner drain overflowed last weekend and dampened 180 boxes of Richard M. Nixon's papers impounded by court order for safekeeping. The contents of two boxes were damaged severely.

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The accident brought a request from the former President's lawyers for a written explanation and what steps are being taken to safeguard against future incidents.

About 80 per cent of an estimated 42 million documents left behind by Mr. Nixon when he resigned as President were moved last May to the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Md.

R. Stan Mortensen, one of Mr. Nixon's lawyers, said yesterday, "The best I can find out about the matter is that they say the materials are of low political sensitivity."

Associated Press

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