
Around the Nation

House Refuses to Ban Nixon Tapes for 2 Years

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (UPI) — The House has defeated a proposed two-year ban on commercial reproduction of former President Richard M. Nixon's Watergate tapes.

The House also rejected a second proposal to bar public access to any Nixon materials dealing with "private political associations." Opponents of the ban feared it could be interpreted by some to block public access to any Watergate materials.

The tapes and other materials of the Nixon Administrations have been impounded by the General Services Administration pending final appeal of a Nixon legal effort to have them declared his personal property.

Congress voted in December 1974 to set up a system to handle the tapes. Mr. Nixon challenged the law, but a three-judge Federal court ruled against him Jan. 7.

The G.S.A. then proposed regulations for making the materials public, effective when and if the Supreme Court upholds the lower court decision.

The agency had proposed creating a five-member review board to administer the law. Reproduction of any of the materials would have been banned for two years, after which the board would determine whether to lift the prohibition.