

# Dispute Over Copies of Some Watergate Tapes

## Washington

Representative Jack Brooks charged yesterday that government officials have duplicated some of former President Richard M. Nixon's tapes, but the White House said the copies were only for Nixon's use. Brooks (Dem-Texas), chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, said he discovered the tapes had been copied after inquiring about security involving access to the tapes.

"This appears to coincide with the period during which certain questions were raised in congress and the news media concerning any role President Ford might have played in blocking a congressional investigation of Watergate before the 1972 election," Brooks said.

White House Counsel Philip W. Buchen said that the copies of the tapes were made at the request of Nixon and no one at the White House listened to them.

Mr. Ford has been questioned in recent weeks about his role in blocking a House Banking Committee probe of Watergate, and has denied acting at the behest of Nixon.

Both the Watergate special prosecutor and the attorney general have rejected requests to listen to tapes of conversations between Mr. Ford and

Nixon between the time of the Watergate burglary and the 1972 election.

In a letter to Brooks, the Treasury Department's general counsel, Richard R. Albrecht, said:

"Tapes removed for duplication for Mr. Nixon's agents at their request and as required by the court order covered only conversations prior to July 22, 1972, which was well before the House Banking and Currency Committee had proposed the investigation which you have referred to."

The Secret Service is part of the Treasury Department and Secret Service officials made the copy of the tapes.

Albrecht also said that during the period referred to by Brooks there was no access to the tapes by Mr. Ford or anyone acting on his behalf.

Albrecht said Brooks' news release on the matter contained "false and misleading inferences."

Both Brooks and Buchen noted that access to the tapes is strictly controlled by court order.

Buchen said congressional legislation and the court order require that Nixon have access to the tapes. He said that copies of some of the tapes were made at the request of Nixon's lawyer earlier this month.

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