

A Nixon Appeal to Keep Tapes Private

Washington

Attorneys for former President Nixon asked the Supreme Court yesterday to bar release of the 30 White House tapes played during the Watergate coverup trial of Nixon's top advisers.

Rey asked the high court to overturn a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals that the tapes "are no longer confidential" and can be released.

Nixon's appeal said the appellate court was wrong in deciding that a necessary consequence of the tapes being played during the coverup trial was their later "exploitation."

Release of the tapes could "place the subpoenaed materials in the hands of private parties to be broadcast on television, to be marketed in the form of phonograph records and cassettes, to be played at cocktail parties and in satiric productions, and to be exploited in any other fashion," Nixon's appeal said.

It also said release of the tapes could prove damaging to Watergate coverup defendants who are appealing their convictions.

In a 2-to-1 decision last October, the Court of Appeals rejected arguments by attorneys for the ex-president that the tapes would invade Nixon's privacy and prove embarrassing to him.

Several broadcast news organizations successfully filed suit to get the tapes, widely reported in the trial of John Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, Robert Mardian and Kenneth Parkinson.

On November 29, the Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in Nixon's bid for control of all White House tapes and other records of his administration.

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