

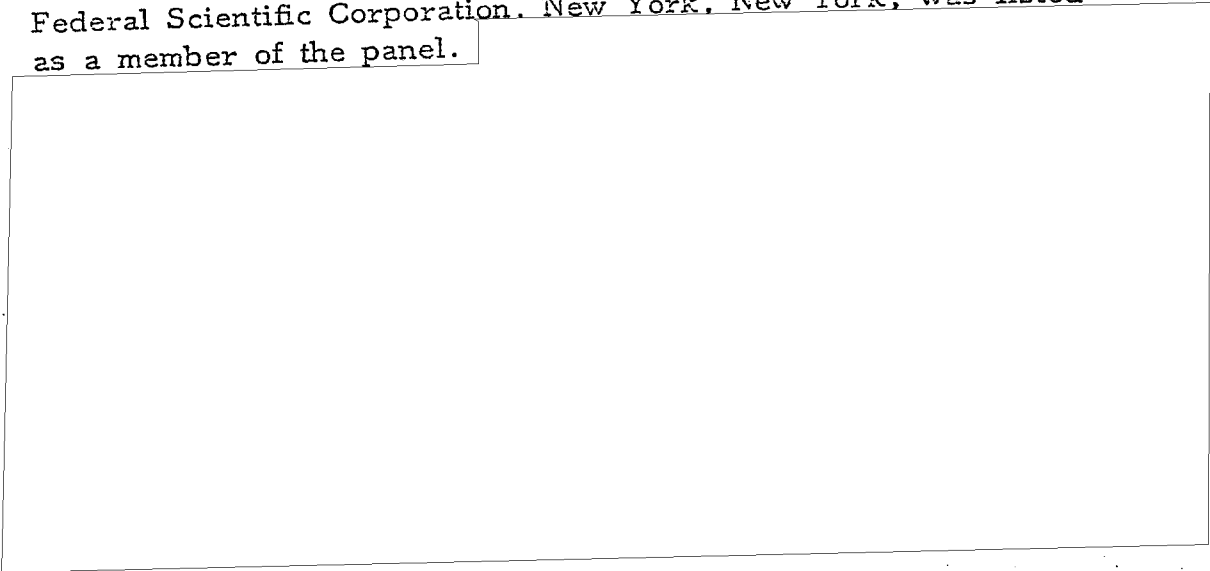
Executive Registry
74-1311

4 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

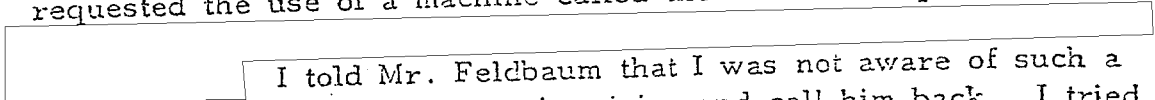
SUBJECT : Presidential Watergate Tapes

1. On 27 November 1973, we learned from the press reports that a panel of technical experts had been appointed by Chief Judge John J. Sirica and that a Mr. Mark Weiss, Vice President of the Federal Scientific Corporation, New York, New York, was listed as a member of the panel.



(b)(1)
(b)(3)

2. On 30 November 1973 at 4:00 p.m., I received a telephone call from Mr. Carl Feldbaum from the Office of the Special Prosecutor (telephone No. 393-2300, ext. 215). Mr. Feldbaum stated that he had been given my name from Mr. Henry Ruth and was calling me because Mr. Mark Weiss, a member of the technical panel, had requested the use of a machine called the "Coherent Spectrum Shaper."



I told Mr. Feldbaum that I was not aware of such a machine but would make some inquiries and call him back. I tried to call Mr. Duckett, DDS&T, but he was not in his office and I then called [redacted] DDS&T/ORD, as I had earlier requested information from him [redacted] said that

(b)(3)

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[redacted] I then called and asked for James Hirsh and in his absence talked to [redacted]. He said that they did have such a machine and that he would determine whether the machine was movable or not. I then received a telephone call from [redacted] who was in the Headquarters Building and he explained the dimensions of the machine to be 30" x 12" x 30". He stated the machine is movable and is not classified. The machine applies basic accoustical theories and can, in some cases, reconstruct material from an erased tape. Mr. Hirsh stated that the machine is currently [redacted] however, if directed it could be moved for the use of the panel.

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(b)(3)

3. I called Mr. Feldbaum at 5:00 p.m. on 30 November 1973 and advised him as follows:

a. The Director was not in town and that his permission had not been granted for the use of the machine;

b. We did have a Coherent Spectrum Shaper and it is movable;

c. Since the technical panel had been selected by Judge Sirica, we would require a written request from Judge Sirica asking for the use of the machine. Mr. Feldbaum said that he understood my position and said that he would call me again on Monday, 3 December 1973.

4. Attached are two articles from 1 December 1973 describing the technical panel work on the Presidential tapes.

5. At the time of the initial request, Mr. Houston briefed General Vernon Walters, DDCI, and on Saturday, 1 December 1973, I also briefed General Walters who stated that he had orally explained the request to Mr. Colby when he had returned to the city on the evening of 30 November 1973.

[redacted signature block]
Assistant General Counsel

(b)(3)

Attachment
cc: DDCI ✓
IG
OLC
DDS&T

Washington Post 1 Dec 73 Experts Test a Tape

Guarded Reel With Erasure To Get 'Signal Enhancement'

By William Claiborne
Washington Post Staff Writer

In an electronics factory alongside a meat market in New York's West Harlem, a panel of experts in computer and recording technology yesterday began studying the White House tape recording on which an 13-minute segment of conversation was erased.

The reel was taken aboard a train by six armed U.S. marshals who delivered it in a magnetic field-proof steel box Thursday night to the Federal Scientific Corp. There, the tape is expected to be run through a series of "signal enhancement" tests in an attempt to restore the erased portions.

The other six presidential tapes remained in a safe in the U.S. courthouse under round-the-clock protection by U.S. marshals.

Also taken to New York were the electric typewriter of Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's personal secretary, and a high intensity lamp that was on Miss Woods' desk on Oct. 1. Miss Woods has testified that on that day she was transcribing a tape made on June 20, 1972, in Mr. Nixon's Executive Office Building suite that included a conversation

between the President and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, then White House chief of staff.

Miss Woods has said she accidentally erased a portion of the tape when she pushed a "record" button on the tape machine while answering a telephone. At the time, the typewriter and lamp were turned on, she said.

Officials of the Watergate special prosecution force refused to provide details of the whereabouts of the tape, or how it was being protected.

But a U.S. District Court source said it was transported to New York late Thursday in a metal box lined with material that would repel any magnetic field capable of causing additional obliterations. This precaution was taken in anticipation that the tape might be carried near electronic equipment with a strong magnetic field, the source said.

All tapes will be accompanied by six marshals to and from New York, the source said. While the tapes are being examined in Federal Sci-

See EXPERTS, A6, Col. 1

Buzhardt Still Heads Nixon Team

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

The White House said yesterday that J. Fred Buzhardt remains in charge of the Watergate defense although changes are being made in the counsel's office.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren first said that Buzhardt "still is working" in the office, but at the end of his briefing, after receiving a written note, he apologized and said that Buzhardt is in charge.

Warren said he had been away from the White House Thursday because of illness and that he had made a mistake in suggesting that Buzhardt was not head of the Watergate defense.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, briefing newsmen Thursday in Warren's absence, had made a lukewarm appraisal of Buzhardt and raised doubts that he continued to have the President's full confidence.

Warren declined to say who sent the note directing him to correct the impression he had left that Buzhardt was no longer in charge of the President's legal defense. But it was assumed that it came from

See PRESIDENT, A6, Col. 1

Experts Seek to Restore 18 Minutes Lost on Tape

EXPERTS, From Al...
 entific laboratory, three...
 marshals will be present...
 At the plant, which is on...
 131st Street between Broad...
 way and 12th Street, offi...
 cials refused to comment on...
 the progress of the tests...
 A spokesman for Mark R...
 Weiss, the firm's vice-presi...
 dent for acoustics research...
 and a member of the panel...
 of experts, said, "We can...
 make no comment until we...
 have completed it to our sat...
 isfaction and have fully re...
 ported it to the judge."...
 Working with Weiss on...
 the tape assignment are...
 Richard H. Bolt, a Cam...
 bridge, Mass., acoustics and...
 computer expert; Franklin...
 Cooper, a linguistics profes...
 sor at the University of...
 Connecticut; James L. Flan...
 agan, a Bell Laboratories di...
 gital coding expert; Thomas...
 G. Stockham Jr., a Univer...
 sity of Utah computer sci...
 ences professor, and John G...
 McKnight, an audio systems...
 consultant.

However, the only panel...
 ists present for yesterday's...
 tests were Weiss, Bolt and...
 Flanagan...
 A representative from the...
 White House, Richard Hau...
 ser, was present as an ob...
 server, along with James...
 Pocer from the Watergate...
 special prosecutor's office...
 The panel was selected by...
 the White House and the...
 prosecutors...
 The panel first met Nov...
 18 in the Executive Office...
 Building to develop a draft...
 proposal for a series of...
 "option tests (and) to explore...
 possible ways to validate the...
 recordings," U.S. District...
 Court Chief Judge John J...
 Sirica said when he an...
 nounced the appointments...
 to the panel. It could not be...
 determined yesterday if the...
 panel has scheduled tests...
 for any other tapes...
 Some of the panel mem...
 bers have estimated that it...
 may take six weeks or more...
 to complete all the tests...
 The purpose of the panel...
 members, who are digital...
 computer experts, is be...
 lieved to be connected to at...
 tempts to capture latent sig...
 nals from the erased por...
 tions of the tapes. White...
 House special counsel J...
 Fred Buchardt has said that...
 there may be "traps" in...
 the data...
 By filtering and amplify...
 ing signals left on the...
 erased portions, it is possi...
 ble to restore original con...
 tentations with the aid of...
 computers, according to...
 experts...
 This can be accomplished...
 according to the experts, as...
 long as the tape has not...
 been completely erased...
 and

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1,

Partly Erased Tape Scrutinized at Lab

By VICTOR K. McELHENY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30— Technical experts appointed by Chief District Judge John J. Sirica have begun examining a partly erased White-House tape recording at a New York City laboratory.

The tape includes a conversation June 20, 1972, three days after the Watergate break-in between President Nixon and his former White House staff chief, H.R. Halde- man, in the President's Execu- tive Office Building hideaway. Most of this conversation, re- portedly was obliterated be- cause it was on an 18-minute tape gap the White House dis- closed Nov. 21.

The examination started yes- terday at the Federal Scientific Corporation, 615 West 131st Street, Manhattan, whose vice president for acoustical re- search, Mark R. Weiss, is one of the technical advisers de- termining the "authenticity and integrity" of subpoenaed White House tapes for Judge Sirica.

In addition to the tape, Federal marshals took to the laboratory the tape recorder, foot pedal, earphones, electric typewriter and high-intensity lamp that Miss Rose Mary Woods, the President's per- sonal secretary, testified this week were involved in creat- ing at least part of the 18- minute gap.

Also sent were some 20 color photographs of Miss Woods and her White House office, taken at the suggestion of her lawyer, Charles S. Rhyne, Tuesday afternoon, showing the placement of the equipment and how Miss Woods might have caused four to five minutes of the gap when interrupted by a telephone call.

Account by Miss Woods

She testified that the inter- ruption came Oct. 1, when she was using the unfamiliar tape recorder for the first time while transcribing from the original tape. With her foot on a tape-advancing foot treadle, Miss Woods testified, she inadver- tently pushed a recording key instead of a stop button, when the phone rang.

Neither she nor other White House officials called to testify could explain the remaining 13 minutes of the gap.

Tape experts not on Judge Sirica's panel, consulted by the New York Times, expressed cer- tainty that one of the panel's first efforts would be to use computer techniques to "filter" out the humming noise that now fills the 18-minute gap, and then "enhance" any resid- ual signals left in the tape after the erasure.

According to Dr. Leo Ber- anek, a leading acoustical scientist who is a television

executive in Boston, the hope of such a "recovery" would de- pend on the quality of the original recording.

Miss Woods and the White House counsel on the Water- gate case, J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., told Judge Sirica in court that they think the humming could have been caused by electrical interference from the high-inten- sity lamp she used on her typ- ing table, inches from the tape recorder.

'All the Material They Need'

The White House counsel, Leonard Garment, interviewed today in Judge Sirica's court- room, said that the technical experts had "all the material they need" for the tests. Among those present for the tests, he said, are Richard Hauser of the White House counsel's staff, and Carl Feldbaum from the office of the special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski.

Most of the items sent to New York by order of Judge Sirica and entered into the court record involved the 18- minute gap and its possible causes, but the final item is considered by tape experts to be vital to a test of authenticity. This is one of the battery of Sony TC 800-B tape machines used to record Presidential con- versations for at least two years before the practice was sus- pended last July.