

## Lawyer says tapes to give Nixon grief

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Richard Nixon's lawyer told the Supreme Court yesterday the ex-president may be embarrassed and subjected to mental anguish if up to 22 hours of White House tapes are reproduced for broadcast and public sale.

Attorney William Jeffress Jr. urged the justices to reverse a U.S. appeals court ruling opening the way for public distribution of copies of tapes played at the 1974 Watergate cover-up trial.

But Edward Bennett Williams, representing Warner Communications Inc. which wants to sell a two-album edition of tape excerpts, said common law gives a trial judge discretion to allow copying of a court exhibit.

Williams said the fact that broadcasting such evidence may be embarrassing is not sufficient reason for blocking its release.

"I say this with no meanness of spirit," Williams told the justices, "but I think that is what petitioner's Nixon's argument is reduced to — that an alleged conspirator has a right not to be embarrassed by the sound of his voice simply because he had been president."

The justices wanted to know what would happen if the person involved were not a former president, but a defendant in a murder trial or a society matron charged with adultery.

Jeffress said in many instances the law protects people from injuries due to embarrassment or mental anguish.

"We submit in these private conversations it is going to be embarrassing to participants," he said, and cause them mental anguish. "It is not unusual for persons speaking privately to be irrevocable."

"Tapes are susceptible to uses far more offensive" than printed transcripts, Jeffress said.



William Jeffress

## Medical review groups 'costly'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The first report on the medical watchdog groups created by Congress said yesterday the agencies, assigned to monitor the cost and quality of subsidized health care, are too expensive and have not helped reduce hospital use.

The report reached no conclusion on whether the review teams of physicians have succeeded in improving the quality of care for Medicare and Medicaid patients.

The agencies — known as Professional Standards Review Organizations — were created in 1972 to monitor the quality and efficiency of the \$47 billion worth of medical care dispensed an-

nually to elderly Medicare and needy Medicaid patients.

A government advisory panel released preliminary results of the first national evaluation of the fledgling PSRO network.

The panel decided against immediate action on the report after some members said the review may have unfairly challenged "the integrity of the program."

A representative of the District of Columbia PSRO called the study premature.

But a summary of the \$1 million study said there was enough information "to strongly suggest that PSRO im-

plementation alone is not apt to cause significant changes in either hospital utilization rates or associated governmental expenditures.

It also said the PSRO program is more expensive than the hospital-based admission review programs it is replacing across the country, and said the program "is not now cost-effective and thus is not yet serving as a cost-containment mechanism."

In Colorado, which has a statewide PSRO, the cost of PSRO review was reported to be \$1 million more than the cost of patient review conducted by hospitals.

## Steel-import price controls considered

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The administration is considering an assistance program for the nation's troubled steel industry which may include a new system to monitor prices of imported products, officials said yesterday.

The package also will contain new industry tax incentives and may involve postponement of government-mandated pollution controls, the officials said.

American steel companies, en-

countering severe financial problems, have long complained that imported steel is being sold in the United States considerably below cost.

The practice, called "dumping," has been a factor in several steel mill closings and thousands of lost jobs since mid-summer.

President Carter last month promised industry executives his administration would begin a more vigorous enforcement of anti-dumping laws. He also

set up an administration task force to develop proposals for helping the industry.

That group, headed by Treasury undersecretary Anthony Solomon, will present its proposals to Carter by the end of the month, officials said.

The focal point of the package, a Treasury spokesman said, will be institution of a so-called "reference" pricing system aimed at eliminating delays in imposition of dumping tariffs.

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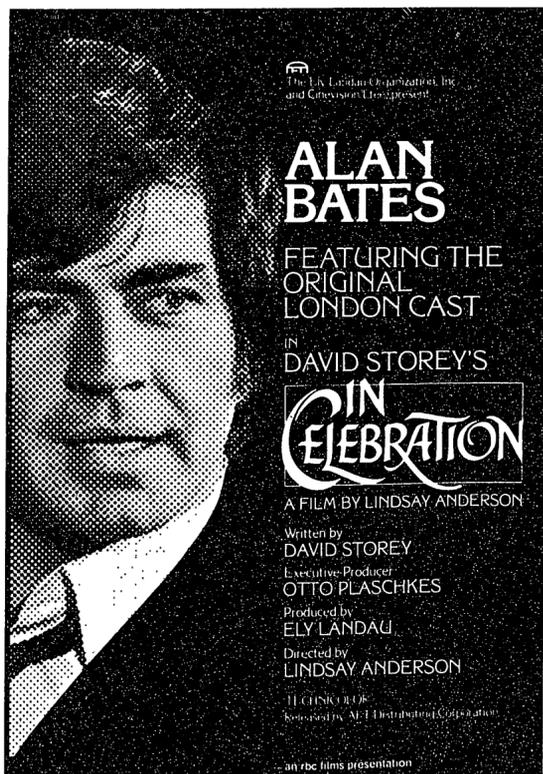
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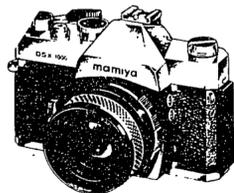
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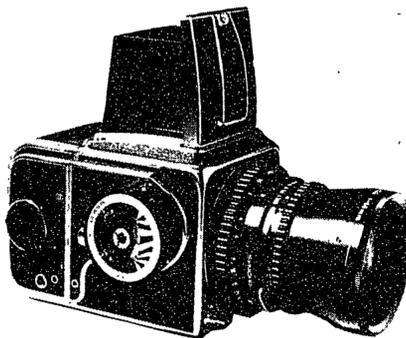
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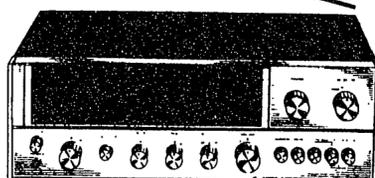
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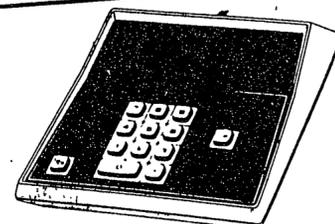


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