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**Bush questions Nixon tape release**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush's presidential campaign has expressed concern about the scheduled release Thursday of 420 hours of former President Nixon's secret White House tapes that include the voice of the presidential candidate's father.

The elder Bush is heard talking, or is talked about, in more than 100 of the 4,140 conversations that are to be made public by the National Archives, according to a listing prepared by the archives. The tapes carry conversations that occurred in late 1971, when former President Bush was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

"We did call to express concern, you bet," Bush campaign spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday night. "We do have an ongoing concern about whether this administration is

going to create external events to influence the outcome of this election."

"We expressed a concern about the timing. We were told that these are predetermined dates (for Nixon tape releases), and we accept that."

The Bush campaign has harshly criticized members of President Clinton's Cabinet for going to bat for Democrat Al Gore's presidential campaign.

"We have concerns about this administration doing anything that could discredit Republicans," Fleischer said.

Fleischer said the campaign expressed its concerns to Jim Cicconi, who worked in the Bush White House and helped set up the Bush presidential library. Cicconi then called National Archives director John Carlin to inquire about the

Nixon tape release, said Susan Cooper, a spokeswoman for the archives.

She said she did not know whether Cicconi specifically asked the archivist to delay the release of the tapes until after the election.

Cicconi, a Washington lawyer for AT&T, did not return repeated calls by the Associated Press to his office and home.

Nixon installed his taping system in the White House in early 1971. The existence of the taping system was revealed during testimony to the Senate Watergate committee in 1973. The government seized the recordings when Nixon resigned. Following years of legal wrangling, the National Archives began to release batches of tapes, which have never been heard before.

**Spin doctor**



DJ Carvel Jay, music coordinator for the NAACP Voter Empowerment Tour, mixes songs in front of the Memorial Student Center. The tour is finishing a five-week tour across the nation, encouraging communities to vote in the upcoming presidential election.

**News in Brief**

**Air Force reverses contract decisions**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Air Force has reversed a decision to award two private companies contracts to run Lackland Air Force Base, a step that is expected to retain 738 civilian jobs.

In August, Austin-based Phoenix Management Inc., won an Air Force contract for airfield management. A second company, Computer Ser-

VICES Corp. of El Segundo, Calif., and its subsidiary, Lackland 21st Century Services Consolidated, won a separate contract.

**Arlington orchestra ends season early**

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Arlington Symphony Orchestra's season has ended before it begun, with executives blaming inadequate support from North Texans.

The group, which was originally scheduled to begin its season Nov. 4, also faced competition from the New Symphony Orchestra of Arlington.

Officials say corporate sponsorship of the orchestra is lacking. Wright said the board has not yet decided whether the orchestra will return next season.

The New Symphony Orchestra was left as the city's sole professional orchestra.

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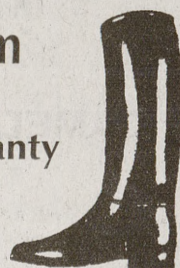
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