

NBC Denies Detroit Negro's Charge He Was Coached to Invent Plot Story

By a Washington Post Staff Writer
NEW YORK, Sept. 29—NBC today denied charges by a Detroit Negro that the network coached him to invent a story about a black-extremist conspiracy to kill whites.

Network officials here displayed tapes and film to a reporter to demonstrate that the man, James Malone, 30, did appear briefly on an NBC documentary about the Detroit riots on Sept. 15. But he never alleged the existence of a black nationalist plot to kill white people in future civil disturbances, NBC said.

Such a plot was discussed later in the program by an anonymous informant, but NBC said that was not Malone.

The network also denied a claim by Malone that his voice had been dubbed in while the anonymous informant was supposed to be speaking.

Examination of films and tapes used on the program, plus others that were not used, tended to corroborate the network's version of the dispute.

Malone's charges appeared this week in the Detroit News and The Washington Post. The News quoted Anthony Loerio, a Catholic seminarian who was a consultant for the documentary, as saying that the coaching charge was "a purposeful attempt to discredit NBC and force it to divulge the true identity of another informant."

A second informant, who also appeared anonymously on the program, was shot and wounded in Detroit after he described a conspiracy to "shoot and burn," said Don Meaney, NBC vice president for news.

The informant was ambushed near his home after he was interviewed but before

the program was aired, said Meaney.

The NBC spokesman said Malone was interviewed in the Wayne County jail in August where he is still being held on a charge of looting during the Detroit riots July 24. The interview was conducted by Bill Mattney, an NBC reporter.

The two anonymous informants each were questioned twice in hotel rooms in Detroit and New York by NBC correspondent Walter Sheridan. Sheridan said today he had "never laid eyes" on Malone.