



Associated Press

Former president Nixon waves as he leaves the Ritz Hotel on his way to a private reception in Paris.

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A 23

Nixon: 'I Wasn't Lying. I Said Things That Later On Seemed to Be Untrue'

From News Services

PARIS, Nov. 28—Former president Nixon went on French television last night and told viewers who phoned in questions that he never lied about Watergate—only said things that later “seemed to be untrue.”

Nixon defended his role in the Watergate scandal in a three-hour television program watched by millions of French.

Their questions were almost without exception sympathetic. But the former president still appeared to be uneasy under the camera lights, sweating profusely and visibly tensing at times.

Typical of the viewer's comments were, “Nixon was a victim, like Kennedy, of a plot but of a different kind.”

Asked by one caller to explain the

Watergate scandal, Nixon replied that it was “worse than a crime. It was an error, a series of errors. I am responsible for not having crushed it at the beginning.”

At another point, a viewer asked Nixon whether he had ever lied about his role in the affair.

I was not lying,” Nixon replied. “I said things that later on seemed to be untrue.”

Nixon said his forced departure from office in 1974 had serious effects. “If it hadn't been for Watergate, Congress would have adopted my energy program and we would not have had an energy crisis,” he said.

Nixon is making a four-day visit to France specifically to appear on the question-and-answer program “Les Dossiers de L'Ecran,”—files of the

screen—aired over the state-owned French television network, which was picking up the bills for the former president and his party of eight.

Television host Joseph Pasteur gave Nixon a warm introduction and asked him how he had reconciled his anti-communism to two accomplishments of his presidency—detente and the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam.

“There is no contradiction,” Nixon replied. “I was anti-communist then and I am anti-communist now. But times have changed.”

During a 41-minute film that opened the program, 10 operators took calls from viewers over 150 lines for a 90-minute question-and-answer period.

Moderators estimated 90 per cent of

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