

President's Attack On Television Seen As Planned Move

A brief challenge by a top Republican aide and a CBS news commentator, broadcast before the President's Oct. 20 news conference, raised the possibility that his remarks at the White House would have been less "spontaneous" than it seemed.

The television broadcast of the conference, Sid Reders, a top aide with the President, just before his speech, and later advised his immediate superior that the President "seemed to have said some critical words" at the White House.

Mr. Reders said the President had engaged him in conversation as he waited outside the Oval Room for the conference to begin, and the aide reported to the President the impression that "the conversation took a decidedly less friendly turn" when he identified himself as "with CBS."

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news conference, he remarked, "I would be going to like this tonight, I hope."

Mr. Reders stated parenthetically in the memo that the "hope" was a barely audible aside.

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When the President asked how long it remained until the news conference, Mr. Reders said he showed him the time which was read off that he had 15 seconds to go. He related that the President said "some vicious comments about how precise, exact, or accurate we are."

It was then, as he began to walk into the room that the President made the comment about Mr. Crosbie, and Mr. Reders said that the attack on TV the next day came as no surprise to him.