

# Cavett Accused of Helping Defeat SST

NEW YORK, March 22 (AP)—The White House has accused Dick Cavett of helping to defeat the supersonic transport (SST) bill in the House and "suggested" an administration spokesman appear on his television show before the crucial Senate vote this week, it was reported today.

The White House action

filled several hours before Cavett taped the requested interview with SST project manager William Magruder to be shown on the ABC network later tonight.

Cavett, an ardent conservationist, also had scheduled Sen. William Proxmire, (D-Wis.), to present the opposing view but the White House objected strenuously. Magruder

came to light several hours before Cavett taped the requested interview with SST project manager William Magruder to be shown on the ABC network later tonight.

Cavett, an ardent conservationist, also had scheduled Sen. William Proxmire, (D-Wis.), to present the opposing view but the White House objected strenuously. Magruder

the day after the House voted against further government funds for the SST.

The Cavett spokesman said they felt the show was partly responsible for defeat of the SST in the House because of air time it gave anti-SST people.

"They suggested—and when the White House suggests it's more than just a suggestion—that we book Magruder on the show," the spokesman said.

Gilroy agreed but said he would ask Proxmire to join Magruder "because we want a balanced show," the spokesman said. The White House at first accepted this but then telephoned Friday night to say it would cancel Magruder unless Proxmire was removed from the program, he said.

Before a decision could be made about this Proxmire called to say he believed it was more important for him to remain in Washington "at this crucial time." He had appeared on television opposite Magruder as recently as last Tuesday.

In Washington, Al Snyder, an assistant to White House Communications Director Herb Klein, confirmed that he had called Gilroy with the suggestion that Magruder be put on to give the "other side." He denied saying Magruder wouldn't be allowed to appear if Proxmire were also on the program. "I said I didn't think he should go on in a debate format," said Snyder, "but I never said he wouldn't be allowed to go on."

(Snyder said there was "never any intention to pressure anyone. As far as I know, no one else from the White

House and no one from the FCC to my knowledge," had contacted ABC or the Cavett show.) (A Cavett show spokesman, however, said they had understood Snyder to be saying Magruder wouldn't appear if Proxmire were to be on the show also.)

Magruder, meanwhile, had complained to the FCC that the Cavett show had violated the "fairness doctrine" calling for presentation of both sides of a controversial issue.

An ABC spokesman said the network had been under no pressure from the White House or the FCC over the show. But he noted that Cavett had interviewed three SST opponents—Proxmire, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and Arthur Godfrey—and presented the opposite view only when Proxmire was on the show.

"So it does appear as though it has been a little bit one way," he said.

William Ray, chief of the FCC's complaints and compliance division, said he had talked to "one of ABC's Washington men. All we did was to make them acquainted with the fact that we had a complaint that they were presenting only one side of the issue.

"We never tell anyone who to put on," Ray said. "We ask only that a reasonable opportunity be given for contrasting points of view."

House and no one from the FCC to my knowledge," had contacted ABC or the Cavett show.) (A Cavett show spokesman, however, said they had understood Snyder to be saying Magruder wouldn't appear if Proxmire were to be on the show also.)

Magruder, meanwhile, had complained to the FCC that the Cavett show had violated the "fairness doctrine" calling for presentation of both sides of a controversial issue.

An ABC spokesman said the network had been under no pressure from the White House or the FCC over the show. But he noted that Cavett had interviewed three SST opponents—Proxmire, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and Arthur Godfrey—and presented the opposite view only when Proxmire was on the show.

"So it does appear as though it has been a little bit one way," he said.

William Ray, chief of the FCC's complaints and compliance division, said he had talked to "one of ABC's Washington men. All we did was to make them acquainted with the fact that we had a complaint that they were presenting only one side of the issue.

"We never tell anyone who to put on," Ray said. "We ask only that a reasonable opportunity be given for contrasting points of view."