

# TV Shoots Scenes Here For Nixon-Era Series

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A crowd gathered at the corner of 15th and L Streets NW during the afternoon rush hour yesterday to watch a Hollywood movie crew film excerpts for a new television series that will deal with official life in Washington during the years of the Nixon administration.

The series, entitled "Washington," is being filmed by Paramount Pictures of Hollywood, Calif., for showing next fall on the American Broadcasting Company television network. The show is based, in part, on the book, "The Company," published earlier this year by John Ehrlichman, former top White House adviser to President Nixon who was convicted in the Watergate scandals.

"Only about 20 per cent of the material is based on Ehrlichman's book. The rest is original," said Norman Powell, producer of the series, which will begin as a two-hour movie and continue in eight subsequent one-hour episodes.

"The essential theme that we will follow in the series is how great power affects ordinary men," said Powell.

The series, which will cover a span from 1972 to 1976 with a flashback to the years of President Lyndon Johnson, will regularly star such talent as Jason Robards, Lois Nettleton, and Cliff Robertson, Powell said. In one episode, Andy Griffith will play a character who resembles LBJ. On another program, Robards will play President Monchton, a fictionalized version of Nixon.

Yesterday was the 10th of 12 days devoted to filming exteriors and driveways of government buildings and Washington city scenes, Powell said. The actual episodes will be

filmed in Hollywood studios over the next 85 to 90 days.

So far the troupe of 40 technicians crew members, 25 actors and more than 400 Washington area "extras" have filmed scenes at Dulles Airport, the Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department, Department of Justice and at the White House, where some problems were encountered.

"We had obtained permission from the Secret Service and the White House press office to do some scenes on the White House grounds where people would drive a car in and back out again," said Gary Nelson, director of "Washington."

"At the last minute, the U.S. Park Service stepped in and said that we could not do any filming on White House property because we were from a commercial enterprise," Nelson said.

Nelson said his crew ended up filming a few scenes of the White House through the wrought-iron fence. The car that was supposed to drive down the White House driveway was filmed as it drove up to the gates, then backed out again.

"I think we were denied access (to the White House grounds) because there are a lot of people who feel that enough has been said about the Nixon years," Nelson said. "They want to discourage it in whatever way they can."

Two scenes were filmed at The Washington Post yesterday. In the first scene, actor Barry Primus, portraying news reporter "Winofsky," simply walked out of the Post building, crossed 15th Street and hurried past the camera to an assignment.

In the second scene, filmed at night, Winofsky meets a young White House employee and his wife outside The Post building and the three drive away. Another person, who has been trying to find out who has been leaking White House secrets to the press, spots the three as they drive away.

He telephones his boss and says: "I think I've found our man."