

White House Attacks Scored

NEW YORK—An internationally known clergyman whose name was in the list of White House “enemies” revealed by former White House counsel John W. Dean III has charged that Nixon administration attacks have resulted in a weakening of leadership in some main-line Protestant denominations.

The Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, who has held the top posts in both the World Council of Churches and the United Presbyterian Church, said many members of that denomination had been persuaded that they had “questionable” leadership.

Preaching at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church here, Dr. Blake told the congregation that “the financial weakness of our denomination is directly or indirectly the result of White House attacks addressed to you in the pew.”

Conflict between the White House and Dr. Blake broke into the open a year ago when he and other anti-war church leaders were repeatedly refused an appointment to present their views on the Vietnam war.

Dr Blake said here that “our church in general was unable to be an effective force for peace because too many Presbyterians had been persuaded that Vietnam was political and the church shouldn’t get involved.”

Regarding the “enemy” list, Dr. Blake recalled that in 1970, in his capacity as World Council general secretary, he had sent an open letter to the United Nations asking U Thant to take some initiative against governments which “act politically against their own citizens in the name of law and order.”

“Now, three years later, I

find myself publicly listed as an enemy of my own government,” he said.