

# Washington Post Claims Reprisals

## Washington

The Washington Post's major role in uncovering the Watergate affair led to challenges to two television stations owned by the Washington Post Co., her publisher Katharine Graham said yesterday.

She was responding to a question asked on a television interview whether the White House had taken any specific action against the Washington Post because of Watergate.

Mrs. Graham said the licenses for WPLG in Miami and WJXT in Jacksonville, Fla., are still in challenge.

When the Post published the Pentagon papers, then-Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst threatened the paper with criminal prosecution if it did not return "sensitive" sections, Mrs. Graham said.

She said Kleindienst "went on to point out that papers with criminal decisions against them obviously could not own television stations."

Mrs. Graham spoke in an interview with Barbara Walters taped for showing on the NBC "Today" show this morning.

She denied reports that the Post pursued the Watergate matter so intensively because of a personal bias against President Nixon and that the Post would not have done so if the late President Kennedy, a friend of Mrs. Ghaham's family had been involved.

She said that the Kennedy family "felt we were picking on them" when the newspaper reported Senator Edward M. Kennedy's accident at Chappaquiddick.

Miss Walters asked, "Was there any time during the Watergate investigation, particularly before the election, when the administra-

tion, when the White House, other than calling names, or perhaps refusing information to your reporters, took specific action against the Washington Post Co.? For example, your company owns three television stations . . ."

Mrs. Graham replied: "Yes, of course. We had, right after the election was over, two stations with four challenges, which is somewhat of first. One of our stations, Jacksonville, had three challenges and the one in Miami has one.

"All the people challenging our licenses are administration supporters, sympathizers. A man who had been counsel to the Committee to Re-Elect was involved in putting one of the challenges together, the chief fund-raiser for the President was involved in another one."

She identified the fund-raiser as George Champion, but did not identify the man who had been counsel to the committee. *Associated Press*

-> See NYT 15 Apr 74, story by George A. Volsky.