

Nixon Isn't Above
Using Earthy Words
When He's Rankled

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◆ '(Expletive Deleted)' Laces the
Transcripts; Opinions of
Some Famed Persons Given ◆

By MITCHELL C. LYNCH
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — When President Nixon gets rankled about something, he isn't above a little locker-room language. For instance, when grumbling about the Watergate break-in, he bellowed:

"(Expletive deleted)"
And if that weren't enough, he added, "Of course, I am not dumb and I will never forget when I first heard about this (adjective deleted) forced entry and bugging."

This, at least, is the White House version of the President's recorded conversations turned over to the House Judiciary Committee. And, while the 1,308 pages are laced with such parentheses, they offer an interesting insight into how Mr. Nixon talks man-to-man with his aides and what his opinions are of some key people.

And they let the reader use his imagination to fill in the deletions.

On former White House aide Charles Colson: "He is the man who can make the difference . . . (expletive, deleted) Colson's got (characterization deleted) . . ."

About Hoover and Gray

On the late J. Edgar Hoover, who headed the Federal Bureau of Investigation for many years, and Patrick Gray, who temporarily succeeded him: "(expletive deleted) —Hoover was my crony. He was closer to me than Johnson, actually although Johnson used to see him more. But as for Pat Gray (expletive deleted), I never saw him."

On the late Robert Kennedy: "Bobby was a ruthless (characterization omitted)."

On possible reaction to Watergate: "I don't know what we can do. The people who are most disturbed about this (unintelligible) are the (adjective deleted) Republicans. A lot of those Congressmen, financial contributors, et cetera are highly moral. The Democrats are just sort of saying, '(expletive deleted) fun and games.'"

The preface to the 1,308-page document explains that "expletives have been omitted in the interest of good taste, except where necessary to depict accurately the context of the conversations." This means just a few hells and damns.

Most of the President's deleted tough talk came in strategy sessions with former White House Counsel John Dean, long before Mr. Nixon and Mr. Dean had their falling out.

Talk of Bum Rap

In one of their conversations, the President made it clear he believed defendants in the Watergate break-in trial were getting a bum rap. "You know when they talk about a 35-year sentence, here is something to think about," he told Mr. Dean during a morning meeting in the Oval Office. "There were no weapons! Right? There were no injuries! Right? There was no success! Why does this sort of thing happen? It is just ridiculous! (characterization) deleted."

—And, when discussing whether Watergate would portend a crisis of confidence in the Presidency, Mr. Nixon asked Mr. Dean, "How much of a crisis? It will be—I am thinking in terms of—everything is a crisis. (expletive deleted) It is a terrible lousy thing. It will remain a crisis among the upper intellectual types, the soft heads, our own, too—Republicans—and the Democrats and the rest. Average people won't think it is much of a crisis unless it affects them."