

Transcripts Books Selling Briskly

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Linn Mitchell stood at the counter of the Waden Book Shop in the Tysons Corner shopping center, her 7-month-old daughter, Kristen, tucked under one arm. "The Presidential Transcripts" under the other.

"I've been following the transcripts in The Post," said Mrs. Mitchell, of Reston, "and I've been craving more, she said as she handed the clerk the \$2.45 price of the Dell Publishing Co. paperback edition of the transcriptions of private presidential conversations.

The books were stacked on the counter, in racks, and on the floor of the store. Manager Jeanne Herrick said she had sold about 325 of the books between 8 p.m. Tuesday and shortly after noon yesterday. 7 MAY

But Miss Herrick is worried. "I said to myself this morning, 'If you don't sell them this week, baby, you're going to be stuck with them.'"

Dorothy Krueger of McLean, who bought the Dell edition of the transcripts at the Walden shop, said she is "reading it because I think it's a valuable, but incomplete, document of our times. But I think (the President) is going to be out before we get any more (to read)."

Asked if she was going to read all the transcripts, Mrs. Krueger replied:

"Sure. It's better than 'The Happy Hooker' as far as I'm concerned."

Another of a score of people questioned yesterday, Herbert Plummer, a retired federal employee who lives in Catharpin, Va., said he would "read it through eventually, but not all at one sitting."

A Bantam spokesman said that company has now decided to print at least 800,000 copies of "The White House Transcripts," while a Dell spokesman said his company plans to print 1.7 million copies of "The Presidential Transcripts."

Bantam vice president Esther Margolis said Bantam is going relatively slowly because "we don't want to end up with 60 per cent of these books coming back to us and ending up in our offices. The whole economics of this business is

based on the fact that you have to sell two books for every one which is returned."

Milton Oehier, of Dell, said he wasn't worrying about returns. "This will be

selling all summer, and it will be called for for school classes in the fall," he said.

According to The Globe book store's paperback buyer, Mike Young, the store has sold about 300

books (200 Bantam and 100 Dell) since Wednesday morning. "We've never had a book like this before," said Young. The store is across 17th Street from the Executive Office Building. 8 MAY