

Graham's View

New York

Evangelist Billy Graham said yesterday that the Watergate affair has put America in a grave situation.

He urged prayers that both the House Judiciary Committee and President Nixon will take the right steps.

Graham, a long-time friend of Mr. Nixon, said of the present circumstances facing the President:

"I think from knowing him, if he's the same man I used to know, I think he will put what's best for the coun-

try above everything else. I think he will look at it from the long view, the historical view, and do what he thinks best to protect the presidency and the country."

Graham paused, and added, "I hope that's going to be his position. The Nixon I know has a great love of country, a great dedication to it."

"We ought to pray for the country," he said. "We ought to pray for the Judiciary Committee, that God will give it wisdom. We ought to pray for the President, that he will be given the wisdom

to do what God wants him to do."

With the committee launching its impeachment inquiry and Mr. Nixon under new political pressures to leave office, the evangelist said "the whole country is facing a very serious situation" in regard to its influence in the world.

Events and problems move ahead "and the situation in Germany, Britain, France and elsewhere demand strong American leadership," he said in a telephone interview from Phoenix, where he is holding a

week's crusade.

The evangelist said that, because of the heavy schedule of his crusade, in which he is preparing a new sermon for each night, he has not read the transcripts of White House conversations released by Mr. Nixon and won't comment in detail until he does.

However, in regard to the numerous "expletives" deleted from the text, Graham said:

"It's not the language I've ever heard him use. However, around me, most presidents have been careful in

their use of profanity. It's like when I go in a locker room, somebody says, 'Shhh, here comes Billy Graham.' Most people's talk around a clergyman is a little different."

However, he added, "The Lord is listening all the time. The Lord has got his tape recorder going from the time you're born until you die. He not only knows what you say, but your thoughts and intents. And all these are going to be brought to light in the judgment."

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of Scandal

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