

Long Omission Reported

Washington

The tape recording of President Nixon's Sept. 15, 1972, conversation with H. R. Haldeman and John W. Dean III, which was heard yesterday by members of the House Judiciary Committee, contains at least one long passage that does not appear in the edited White House transcript of that tape, according to a committee source.

In the passage cited by the source, Mr. Nixon threatens to punish the Washington Post and its attorney, Edward Bennett Williams, and notes specifically that the Post owns television stations.

There is the clear implication that he President hopes to take government action to deprive the Post of its television licenses.

The Post won a Pulitzer prize last year for its many disclosures about the Watergate case and other scandals in the Nixon administration.

Reading from a copy of the transcript prepared by the impeachment inquiry staff, the source quoted Mr. Nixon as making the following statement to Haldeman, then his chief of staff, and Dean, then White House counsel:

"The main thing is the Washington Post is going to have a damnable, damnable thing out of this one. They have a TV station, you know."

The edited transcript of the conversation made public by the White House two weeks ago does not contain this quotation or anything resembling it. That transcript ends with the notation, "further conversation following unrelated to Watergate."

The committee source also quoted passages not in the edited transcript that threaten Williams.

"I would not want to be in Edward Bennett Williams' position after this one," the President was reported to have said.

Later, speaking of Williams, the President said, according to the source, "I

think we're going to fix the son of a bitch."

"Really, they're just open threatB," the committee source remarked.

In late 1972, two groups with political connections to Mr. Nixon challenged the Post's television licenses in Jacksonville and Miami.

The group that filed a challenge with the Federal Communications Commission to obtain the license for WJXT in Jacksonville is headed by George Champion Jr., who was finance chairman in Florida for Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign.

The group that challenged the license for WPLG in Miami included the law partners of former Senate George A. Smathers, a Democrat who introduced Mr. Nixon to his friend, Charles G. Rebozo, and Edward N. Claughan, a Republican who lent his Coral Gables home to former vice president Spiro T. Agnew during the 1972 republican national convention.

The challenges are still pending before the FCC.

While the discussions about the Post and Williams do not appear in the publicly

released transcripts, there is a statement in these transcripts in which the President ordered Dean to keep notes of the Administration's political enemies so that action can be taken against them after the election.

The statement reads as follows: "I want the most comprehensive notes on all those who tried to do us in. They didn't have to do it. If we had had a very close election and they were playing the other side, I would understand this. No—they were doing this quite deliberately, and they are asking for it and they are going to get it.

"We have not used the power in this first four years as you know. We have never used it. We have not used the bureau and we have not used the Justice Department, but things are going to change now. And they are either going to do it right or gc."

(The Washington Post, which also published the story of the newly revealed portion of this White House conversation, received this reaction last night from White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler: (He called the leak of the transcript "a total breach of the rules of the committee as set forth by the chairman and vice chairman in their opening statement and absolutely contrary to the suggestion that the House committee was involved in a fair and disciplined proceeding.")

(Ziegler said that, although he was not familiar with discussions relating to the Washington Post, "The Washington Post has not and in reality is not facing any threats from the administration.")

"... I find it unusual that the first attempt to reach the White House by the Washington Post was at 10:50 p.m. — close to an hour after the first edition was locked into print—and that we were not given the courtesy to comment on this story before the first edition of the Post was published," Ziegler added.)

New York Times