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White House Defends Deletion of Threat

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
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WASHINGTON, May 16—A White House spokesman said today that threats by President Nixon against The Washington Post were omitted from the transcription of recorder Presidential conversations because they were "clearly unrelated to the Watergate matter."

Geald L. Warren, the White House deputy press secretary, also charged in a regular news briefing at the White House that the House Judiciary Committee was responsible for leaking the President's threats against the newspaper and was "raising a false issue" by implying that the transcript of the tapes did not reveal their full content.

It was disclosed yesterday that the tape recording of a conversation among Mr. Nixon and two aides, John W. Dean 3d and H. R. Haldeman, on Sept. 15, 1972, shows that the President said he intended to retaliate against The Washington Post for delving into the Watergate burglary.

According to reports of what the tape carried, the President appeared to indicate that he would seek to do something about licenses for the television and radio stations owned by The Washington Post Company.

Licenses Were Challenged

Several months later, these licenses were challenged before the Federal Communications Commission by people affiliated with Mr. Nixon personally or politically.

At today's briefing, Mr. Warren denied that the remarks by the President, which were on a tape given to the Judiciary Committee by the special Watergate prosecutor, implied any intent by the Administration to use the F.C.C. for revenge against the Washington Post.

You should know that The Washington Post has not and is not facing any threat from this Administration," Mr. Warren said.

He also reiterated that the Administration had not been a party to the challenges to the radio and television licenses held by The Washington Post. "My understanding was that it went through normal F.C.C. channels," he said.

When asked if anyone in the White House or Administration had recommended that The Washington Post's licenses be challenged, Mr. Warren said he was "not aware" of any such recommendation.

He added that he did not know if it was just a "coincidence" that an effort had been made to take away these licenses after President Nixon had talked about it with his close aides.

Area Restricted

Mr. Warren stressed that the transcripts released by the White House "tell the complete story of the actions relating to the Watergate matter." He apparently was defining the Watergate matter as actions related specifically to the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office building on June 17, 1972, and the subsequent cover-up.

Although the President's threats against The Post apparently were related to that newspaper's investigations of the Watergate burglary, Mr. Warren, and the White House officials who prepared the transcripts, did not include them as a "Watergate matter."

Mr. Warren repeated several times that the transcripts had been turned over to the Judiciary Committee "in full awareness" that the committee, as part of its impeachment in-

quiry, possessed eight of the full tapes transcribed. The committee thus could check the transcriptions for itself.

Mr. Warren was saying, in effect, that the White House was not trying to hide anything by failing to include the President's threats against The Post in its transcription of the Sept. 15 conversation.

The White House had prepared and released the transcription in reply to a subpoena by the Judiciary Committee seeking the tape recordings of more than 40 conversations involving the President and his aides. The committee later voted that the transcripts did not satisfy the demands of the subpoena.

This week the committee issued two additional subpoenas for other White House tapes and documents.

The White House, Mr. Warren asserted, has respected "the rules of confidentiality" in the Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings. He implied that members of the committee or its staff had not respected these rules.

On another matter, Mr. Warren said that the President "feels personal concern for Dwight Chapin," who was sentenced yesterday to 10 to 30 months in prison for perjury. He added that Mr. Chapin was "a fine young man with a fine young family."

Mr. Warren said the President had no comment on former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, who pleaded guilty today to a misdemeanor charge brought by the special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski. When pressed repeatedly by questions, Mr. Warren said that Mr. Kleindienst was "also a very fine man."

President Nixon, together with his family and close aides, flew to Miami for a long weekend at his Key Biscayne home.