

A Quip on Transcripts

Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan says the moral tone of President Nixon's taped Watergate conversations "was a little bit like seeing civilization with its pants down..."

But the governor told the San Jose Mercury-News in an interview that in his reading of the White House-edited transcripts of private presidential discussions he didn't see anything

"that I would consider an impeachable offense."

At a news conference on May 14, Reagan, front-running contender in the polls for the 1976 Republican presidential nomination, refused to discuss the moral tone of the transcripts.

However, in the interview Reagan said:

"I can see where the people are disturbed. I can see where the image and the

majesty, if you want to call it, of the office itself in most people's minds (was affected).

"It was just a rude shock. It was a little bit like seeing civilization with its pants down to suddenly see a man sitting with his most intimate counselors and associates in a room obviously talking in ways that none of them would ever talk out in public."

United Press