

The Bad Side of a (

Washington

Used to be, a college kid could impress his friends by landing a summer job at the White House.

But Watergate has changed that.

"I've been told I'm signing up on the SS Titanic," said Linda Smith, a 22-year-old Wheaton College graduate.

"You say you're working at the White House, and you run into a lot of verbal abuse sometimes," added Michael Mulligan, 21, of Newburyport, Mass.

"I come from a Republican conservative area," said Judy Wilson of Cheyenne, Wyo. "And I've had some people say some negative things, like 'How could you go to work for someone up for impeachment?'"

Their laughter at each other's stories, underscored, however, what little impact such comments have on the attitudes and enthusiasm of this summer's White House interns.

There are 37 interns. The 19 women and 18 men were chosen from 350 applicants to work in different White House offices, including the National Security Council, Domestic Council, news offices and Mrs. Nixon's office.

College students earn \$125 a week, while graduate students earn \$150.

"I had no second thoughts

Good Job

on coming back after last year," said Miss Smith of Ardmore, Pa. She works for Mrs. Nixon's press secretary, Helen Smith. They are not related. "It's an experience I wouldn't get anywhere else . . . It's seeing what happens in the executive branch from the inside."

Mulligan, a mustachioed senior at Middlebury College in Vermont, helps with liaison work between the administration and big business.

"I had the impression when I came that everyone in the White House would be totally concerned with saving the President," he said. "But in my office, they're not consumed by Watergate."

Miss Wilson, a 21-year-old Fulbright scholar who recently was graduated from the University of Wyoming, helps edit the news summaries that are delivered each day to President Nixon and his aides.

"You're constantly called on to figure out how you feel about each issue," she said. "You constantly have to be aware of what your opinion is."

Kelly Duncan, a 20-year-old junior at Georgetown University, said that by talking to White House staffers about their jobs and how Watergate has affected White House operations he is able to draw his own conclusions about how the scandal has affected the executive branch.

Associated Press