

SF Chronicle

Reference to Trudeau

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A Slur Attributed to Nixon

Washington.

Two of the Watergate cover-up defendants have attributed to former President Nixon a vulgar remark about Canadian Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau during a 1973 meeting with aides, it was disclosed yesterday.

The contention was made by H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, who were Mr. Nixon's top two assistants, in a conference with coverup trial Judge John J. Sirica concerning a White House tape played in court Monday.

In that whispered conversation at Sirica's bench, it was reported, Haldeman and Ehrlichman told the judge it was Mr. Nixon who made the remark: "That asshole Trudeau is something else."

Although the tape contained that statement, a transcript prepared by the prosecution attributed the remark to Haldeman and did not identify Trudeau as the subject of the characterization.

Attorneys for Haldeman and Ehrlichman, insisted the



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EX-PRESIDENT NIXON AND CANADA'S PIERRE TRUDEAU
They shared a laugh during a 1972 meeting in Ottawa

voice was Mr. Nixon's and demanded that the record be corrected, but Sirica took no immediate action.

In Brussels, Trudeau said, "there is not the slightest chance whatsoever of a

comment" from the prime minister regarding the remark.

The phrase was used during a Nixon meeting on the afternoon of March 22, 1973, with Ehrlichman, Halde-

man, John N. Mitchell and John W. Dean III as the Watergate coverup began unraveling.

According to prosecution transcripts, midway through the conversation Mr. Nixon

said: "I got to handle my Canadian friend . . . at the moment."

Shortly thereafter came the disputed phrase, with no further reference to Canada or Trudeau.

One of Haldeman's attorneys told reporters after the tape was played: "That's not the kind of word Bob would use. He just didn't say it."

Ehrlichman's lawyers also filed a thick sheaf of corrections they said should be made in the prosecutor's transcripts, including the Trudeau remark.

Shortly before that remark, the Ehrlichman version quotes Mr. Nixon as saying: "Suppose you take him. You take care of it now. I'll take care of Trudeau and I won't come over there, I — you might, if you get him waltzed around, you let me hear . . ."

The prosecutor's version of the transcripts did not contain the phrase "I'll take care of Trudeau," carrying instead the notation "unintelligible."

United Press