

# Profane Reference To Trudeau Bared

A profane reference to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on a White House tape recording came to light at the Watergate cover-up trial yesterday and was attributed to former President Nixon.

Corrected transcripts of the Oval Office recording of a March 22, 1973, conversation showed Mr. Nixon, in the presence of top aides, saying, "That asshole Trudeau was something else."

The remark was made during a brief interruption in a conversation on Watergate matters. The entire conversation was played Monday for the jury as part of the government's evidence of conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

Mr. Nixon made the remark during a conference with four of the five defendants on trial, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, John N. Mitchell and John W. Dean III.

The statement was indistinct in the tape recording played Monday and was attributed to Haldeman in the transcript prepared by the Watergate special prosecutor's office and used by the jury. The transcript did not make clear that Trudeau was the target of the remark.

Haldeman moved on Monday to correct the record through his attorneys. According to the trial transcript, prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste told U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica that he could certainly "understand Mr.

Haldeman's contention that he didn't make the statement."

In any event, said the prosecutor, the matter is irrelevant to the issues in the trial. Both sides agreed that it would only "exacerbate the situation" to bring the correction to the attention of the jury, which has been admonished to ignore the strong language in some of the recordings.

In Brussels, where Trudeau is on a three-day trip, a spokesman for the prime minister said, "There is not the slightest chance whatsoever of a comment" on the disclosure.

Trudeau is scheduled to meet with President Ford in Washington Dec. 4.