

# Post Publisher Charges White House Retaliation

Post 7/30/73

NEW YORK, July 29 (AP) — Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham says the licenses of two television stations her company owns in Florida were challenged because of the paper's role in uncovering the Watergate affair.

She was responding to a question asking whether the White House had taken any specific action against The Washington Post because of Watergate. The newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the story.

She said the licenses for WPLG in Miami and WJXT in Jacksonville are still in challenge.

Mrs. Graham also said that when The Post published the Pentagon papers, then-Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst threatened the paper with criminal prosecution if it did not return "sensitive" sections.

She said Kleindienst "went on to point out that papers with criminal deci-

sions against them obviously could not own television stations."

Mrs. Graham made her disclosures in an interview with Barbara Walters taped for showing on the NBC "Today" show Monday morning.

Mrs. Graham denied reports that The Post pursued the Watergate matter so intensively because of a personal bias against President Nixon and would not have done so if the late President Kennedy, a family friend, had been involved.

She said that the Kennedy family "felt we were picking on them" when reporting Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's accident at Chappaquiddick.

Mrs. Graham said "all the people challenging our licenses are administration supporters, sympathizers; a man who had been counsel to the Committee to Re-Elect was involved in putting one of the challenges together, the chief fundraiser for the President was involved in another one."