

President's Bid to Restore Confidence

by John Herbers

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In his news conference two weeks ago [Mr. Nixon] was at times nervous, tense and defensive. But the concensus was that he helped himself by, for the first time, going before the public and answering all questions put to him on Watergate.

His aides were so pleased with the outcome that they immediately began urging him to hold another news conference in which Watergate would be less of a factor and the President could convey to the people what he was trying to do in running the Government.

Today's news conference was held in the East Room of the White House under a fully televised format that Mr. Nixon had not used since his first term. Rather than holding an impromptu conference as he had done earlier this year and most of last, he announced the conference with more than four hours notice.

He was tanned from many hours in the sun and he wore heavy make-up. He seemed more at ease during most of the questioning than he had two weeks ago. But the nervousness and heavy breathing returned when he was asked about the financing of his San Clemente property.... And he was defensive on his homes in San Clemente and Key Biscayne, Fla., depicting himself as a man of little wealth who had been smeared by false accusations.

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NYTimes transcript of press conference filed W/gate, 6 Sep. In six-column page, answer to question on real estate is almost a full column long.