

U.S. Papers Scored By Times of London On Watergate Case

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, June 5—The Times of London charged in a long editorial today that The Washington Post and The New York Times were interfering with the course of justice by "publishing vast quantities of prejudicial matter" on the Watergate affair.

In a strongly critical 2,000-word editorial, The Times said that newspaper Watergate exposés, the public Senate investigation and leaks from the grand jury hearing had combined to make President Nixon a victim of a "Washington variant of lynch law."

"While he may or may not be innocent, he may never be proved guilty by a process so clearly lacking in justice," the editorial said. It added that Mr. Nixon was in the unenviable position of being tried by his fellow countrymen in three different forums, each of which had its own deficiencies.

The Times gave "full credit" to the American press, particularly The Washington Post, for "forcing the Watergate affair into the open." But, it asked:

"How can the newspapers defend themselves from the very charge that they are bringing against the President, the charge of making a fair trial impossible if they now publish evidence so damning and so doubtful with all the weight of authority that their publication gives?"

The editorial was particularly critical of the publication of statements made by John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, to Senate investigators.

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