

Frost Tapes First Interview With Nixon

San Clemente

Richard Nixon sat down yesterday with British talk show star David Frost to start the first of 12 taped interviews about his life, his career of almost 30 years and the Watergate scandal that drove him from office.

There is tight security around each interview. Only a handful of trusted Frost employees are working on the shows. They say advance disclosure of anything newsworthy may lessen the impact, and thus the ratings.

Frost, 37, calls the interviews —

Nixon's first since resigning the presidency — the most challenging of his career, "particularly since Richard M. Nixon is renowned to be an incredibly private person, and we want to see the real Richard Nixon, find out the answer to that enigma."

The two-hour interview sessions, the last set for April 20, will be cut to four 90-minute programs to be aired in May on television and radio in the United States and at least ten foreign countries.

According to Frost, the tapings

are being done at a private home near Nixon's estate in San Clemente, 7½ miles south of Los Angeles. He declined to name the owner of the home.

Neither Frost nor his company will say how much Nixon is being paid.

Frost, in an interview earlier this week, said he had been "marinating" in his mind the questions he wants to put to Nixon ever since signing the former President for the interviews.

Last summer, he opened an

office in Washington to begin research on the Nixon story. Among those who've helped him are Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, the Washington Post news-men whose Watergate investigations helped lead to Nixon's resignation.

The two reporters, who've since written two best-selling books on Watergate and Nixon, "are but two of hundreds of people who've given up their help," Frost says.

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