

Carter Won't Compete With Nixon

Washington

The White House backed away hastily yesterday from a potential television ratings contest between President Carter and former President Nixon.

Jody Powell, Carter's spokesman, announced in London that the President would hold a news conference at 7:30 p.m. EDT tomorrow to report to the nation on his first presidential journey abroad.

But the White House changed the time after realizing that the President's news conference would coincide with the start of David Frost's second televised interview of the former President. Last Wednesday night, the first of the four

Nixon telecasts, which was devoted entirely to the Watergate scandal, drew the largest news interview audience in the history of television.

The Carter news conference was changed to 2:30 p.m. EDT (11:30 a.m. PDT) tomorrow.

The change occurred, a White House spokesman said, after network executives telephoned the White House "in an agitated state."

An industry source in New York said that network officials feared they would have been "demolished" in the ratings had they televised Carter against the syndicated Nixon interview.

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