

Schorr Denies He Tried to Link Colleague to Printing of Spy Report

By ROBERT McG. THOMAS Jr.

Daniel Schorr, the CBS correspondent who gave a secret House report to The Village Voice, denied last night that he had tried to implicate another CBS correspondent during an investigation by his superiors.

Mr. Schorr's continued suspension by CBS, despite the fact that the House ethics committee dropped its investigation last week of the unauthorized disclosure of the report, has been attributed by CBS sources to an accusation that he had tried to implicate a fellow correspondent, Lesley Stahl, when he was first questioned by CBS executives last February after Mr. Schorr had been identified by The Washington Post as the source of the disclosure.

Mr. Schorr's denial came during an interview conducted by Mike Wallace on the CBS "60 Minutes" program telecast last night.

'Lesley Wasn't in Town

During the interview, Mr. Schorr said: "I didn't try to implicate Lesley. That was the furthest thing ever from my mind. It would have been silly on the face of it. Lesley wasn't even in town when the whole thing happened."

Acknowledging that he had allowed his superiors to suspect Miss Stahl "for a few hours, until I realized how silly that was and stopped it," Mr. Schorr said he had been "tongue-tied," in the face of the report by The Post and was trying to postpone a full disclosure to his superiors until a CBS lawyer was present.

"I dissembled," Mr. Schorr said, "I'm not quite clear. I don't think I ever specifically denied [that he had given the report to The Voice]. I certainly did not volunteer, and I certainly did not help CBS for several hours to get the information."

Suspicion had fallen on Miss Stahl because she was known to be a friend of Aaron Latham, who had been named by The Voice as having helped arrange for

the publication of the House Intelligence Committee Report on the Central Intelligence Agency.

Explaining why he had allowed Miss Stahl to remain under suspicion during the initial stage of the CBS investigation, Mr. Schorr said:

"It had to do with the matter of my being at first tongue-tied about the fact that The Post had learned that I was the person who had provided the thing, at a time when I thought that I could give an added layer of protection to my source by trying not to, which may have been a silly thing to do, being taken unawares; of being advised by a lawyer, Joe Califano, in fact, that to tell the story to CBS, but make sure to have their lawyer present, because you might need lawyer-client privilege on some aspects of it."

On another matter that has reportedly angered other CBS newsmen and persuaded some to oppose his return to the air, Mr. Schorr denied that he had told a Duke University audience that CBS had instructed certain correspondents to go easy on Richard M. Nixon the night he announced his resignation and that the correspondents had complied with the instructions.

"I wasn't talking about correspondents," Mr. Schorr said, "I was talking about an atmosphere that I sensed in the control room, as passed down by management."

He said his remarks had been distorted "because I think management found it more comfortable to look at this as a correspondents' feud than as a challenge to management policies."