

SEChronicle

Ford Had to

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## Ask Networks For Coverage

New York

The three major networks broadcast President Ford's Kansas City speech live last night, but only after a formal White House request.

CBS and ABC said they initially decided against live coverage of the speech on the basis of news judgment. NBC said it had made no decision on live coverage before Mr. Ford's formal request for air time.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen, a former NBC newsman, said in a statement approved by Mr. Ford yesterday that "the networks did not feel that it was newsworthy" to air live coverage of how Americans can fight inflation and conserve energy.

*Associated Press*