

Nixon and Flow of Facts

Washington

A study conducted jointly by the National Press Club and American University criticized the Nixon administration yesterday as being "the most 'closed' administration in recent decades."

The report asserted that "the Nixon administration has engaged in an unprecedented, government-wide effort to control, restrict and conceal information to which the public is entitled, and has conducted for its own political purposes a concerted campaign to discredit

the press," the report said.

Contending that the administration attempted "to restrict the flow of legitimate public information necessary to the effective functioning of a responsible government in a self-governing society," the report charged that:

- "President Nixon has failed to hold regular and frequent press conferences;" He has held an average of seven news conferences a year; Lyndon Johnson held approximately 25 each year.

- "The White House press

secretary has been reduced to a totally programmed spokesman without independent authority or comprehensive background knowledge of administration policies;

- "The office of the director of communications has operated a propaganda ministry," and

- "The office of telecommunications policy has raised the specter of government censorship of commercial television more seriously than at any time in history."

The report was prepared

by Lewis W. Wolfson, associate professor of communication at American. James McCartney of the Knight Newspapers' Washington bureau and chairman of the Professional Relations Committee of the press club, supervised its preparation, conclusions and recommendations.

It took one year to prepare and was based on interviews with newsmen covering the administration and with administration members.

Wolfson said in his preface "it was disappointing that only three out of the 15 White House officials we approached would join in the spirit of the study."

Associated Press