

Nixon Asks Press for 'Hell' When Wrong

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 30— Moments after President Nixon completed his television speech Monday night, he walked into the room where the White House press briefings are held each morning.

With no Secret Service agents or staff aides accompanying him, he stepped behind the podium where Ronald L. Ziegler, his press secretary, usually answers reporters' questions. The lights in that part of the room were out. He stood in the shadows.

The President then looked out at a group of about 15 reporters and photographers who were standing there chatting. His voice was low; he appeared shaken.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the press," Mr. Nixon said, "we have had our differences in the past, and I hope you give me hell every time you think I'm wrong. I hope

I'm worthy of your trust."

Then he turned and walked back toward the Presidential living quarters upstairs.

The President, according to an aide who had entered the Oval Office immediately after his address, began to say a few words to the television technicians, as is his custom, but tears welled in his eyes and his voice cracked noticeably.

The aide then reminded Mr. Nixon that he had to sign an extension of the Economic Stabilization Act before midnight. While the aide held a box of papers as a makeshift desk, the President scrawled his name.

It was immediately after this that the President went to the briefing room and talked to newsmen.

Mr. Nixon—often a bitter antagonist of the press since his days in Congress in the nineteen-fifties—paid tribute in his TV speech to the

grand jury in the Watergate case, to the prosecutors, to Federal Judge John J. Sirica and finally to "a vigorous free press."

The White House held to a decision, announced earlier Monday, not to permit the taking of photographs of Mr. Nixon behind his desk in the Oval Office, which is customary when he makes major addresses. However, photographers snapped some quick pictures during his appearance in the briefing room.

Several news organizations protested the decision not to allow the taking of still photographs before, during or after the President's television address.

Protests were made by United Press International, The Associated Press, The New York Daily News, The Chicago Tribune and The Chicago Sun-Times.

5/2/72 NYT