

Soap Opera Fans' Calls Drowned Out

Television coverage of the Senate Watergate hearings became surprisingly popular yesterday, if the turnaround in phone calls to the three network affiliate stations here was any measure.

The stations were swamped with calls Thursday from day-time viewers who longed for their soap operas and quiz shows.

But each station reported getting even more calls yesterday, the vast majority of them praising the full coverage of the hearings.

"It's very interesting isn't it?" said Dick Robertson, a spokesman for KRON-TV. "We were getting all sorts of complimentary calls, at least 75 per cent of them in favor." The station estimated Thursday that "at least 80 per cent" of the callers were opposed to the hearing coverage.

"I think it was a reaction to the soap opera fans," said a spokesman for KGO-TV. She estimated the station yesterday received nearly double the 400 calls answered Thursday with 60 per cent of them favorable.

KPIX-TV also reported about double the number of calls, with 500 for, and 300 against. That station reported calls Thursday running 3 to 2 against the coverage.