

U.S. Press 'Not Fair to Nixon'

Washington

A British journalist accused the American press yesterday of failing to discharge its duty "to be fair to the President" in the Watergate affair.

"The press of the United States has a duty to be fair to the President," William Rees-Mogg, editor of the Times of London said in a speech at the National Press Club. But the nation's press, taken together and not individually, is not discharging that duty, he said.

The 44-year-old Rees-Mogg, in an editorial of the Times on June 5, described the President as "in the unenviable position of being tried by his fellow countrymen in three different forums" — the Senate Watergate committee, the Watergate grand jury and the press.

What Mr. Nixon was receiving, Rees-Mogg said in the editorial was "a Washington variant of Lynch law, and while he may or may not be innocent, he may never be proved guilty by a process so clearly lacking in justice."

Charging yesterday that the President has received "consistently unfavorable press since he entered Con-

gress . . . which is partly his own fault," Rees-Mogg accused the press of failing to give credit to Mr. Nixon for his "major contributions" in foreign affairs. "The press is not willing to give credit where credit is due," he said.

Rees-Mogg, who has run unsuccessfully for the House of Commons, described the position of the "East Coast press" as an adversary against the administration almost to the point of becoming "a hunting pack."

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