

Questions That Didn't Get Asked

San Clemente

President Nixon wasn't taken by surprise by the tough Watergate questions at his news conference. But aides said he was "stunned" that there were so few inquiries on other subjects.

Some White House correspondents had come to the news conference Wednesday with lists of other questions. One had as many as 20. They just didn't get called on.

At the moment Mr. Nixon said the news conference was 30 minutes old and there had been no questions on "the people's business," some reporters were trying to get his attention to ask such questions. Among them

were questions about rising food prices, the effects of the Soviet Union's successful tests of MIRV nuclear warheads and the IFT antitrust case.

Many reporters were surprised by each other's questions on Watergate.

"There was no grand design," one reporter said. Yet, "everyone assumed" that there would be a number of unresolved Watergate questions to be asked, he said.

Reporters had not had a chance to ask Mr. Nixon questions since March 15, which was before most Watergate revelations and before the Senate Watergate hearings had begun.

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