



AP Wirephoto

President Nixon addressed the White House press corps before the reporters began questioning him last night

# Harsh Attack on 'Vicious' Reporting

## Washington

President Nixon proclaimed his coolness under pressure last night and then made it perfectly clear he is prepared for a long war with the nation's news media.

Bluntly answering questions that challenged his credibility and his emotional state, the President told television reporters he had no

respect for their networks.

"I have never heard or seen such outrageous, vicious, distorted reporting in 27 years of public life," Mr. Nixon said in describing the television coverage of Watergate issues.

In one of his most hostile confrontations with the media since his famous "retirement" speech after his defeat for the California gover-

norship in 1962, Mr. Nixon candidly expressed his own concern with the growing spokesticism about his ability to govern. He blamed the media, and especially the television networks, for much of this concern.

This is the way the President said the media had described him, starting with the bombing of Cambodia: "tyrant, dictator, he's lost

his senses, he should be impeached."

When he was asked, in a paraphrase of his own words, whether the recent "shocks" have drained the nation of its energy, Mr. Nixon again denounced the reporting of his administration.

"... When people are pounded night after night

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with that kind of frantic, hysterical reporting, it naturally shakes their confidence."

END

The most hostile moment came near the end of the 38-minute press conference when CBS reporter Robert C. Pierpoint, who on October 16 presented a special report about Mr. Nixon's close friend Charles (Bebe) Rebozo, asked the reasons for the President's denunciation of television.

"What is it about the television coverage of you in

these past weeks and months that has so aroused your anger?" Pierpoint asked.

"Don't get the impression that you've aroused my anger," the President said to a gale of laughter.

"I'm very sorry, sir, but I have that impression," Pierpoint persisted.

"You see, one can only be angry with those he respects," the President said curtly, turning away for another question.

## GROANS

The President's rejoinder was greeted with moans and

more laughter from the television area of the East Room, where Mr. Nixon was conducting the 35th news conference of his administration.

But the President wasn't laughing. The quality of his controlled fury at the news conference — a fury which bubbled to the surface when his credibility was questioned — was reminiscent of the 1962 press conference where Mr. Nixon proclaimed:

"You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference..."

The difference between that historic performance and the one yesterday was that Mr. Nixon now promised just the opposite of stepping aside. Time and again he cited his own conduct in the ongoing Middle East crisis as an example of why he should remain in office and not resign.

## HIMSELF

Speaking of himself in the third person, the President said:

"Even in this week when many thought that the President was shell-shocked, unable to act, the President acted decisively in the interests



of peace and in the interests of the country, and I can assure you that whatever shocks gentlemen of the press may have or others . . . these shocks will not affect me in doing my job."

Twice the President compared his domestic critics to

his foreign adversaries, once almost jovially when he referred in his prepared remarks to "our attempts to get a cease-fire on the home front."

#### POINTED

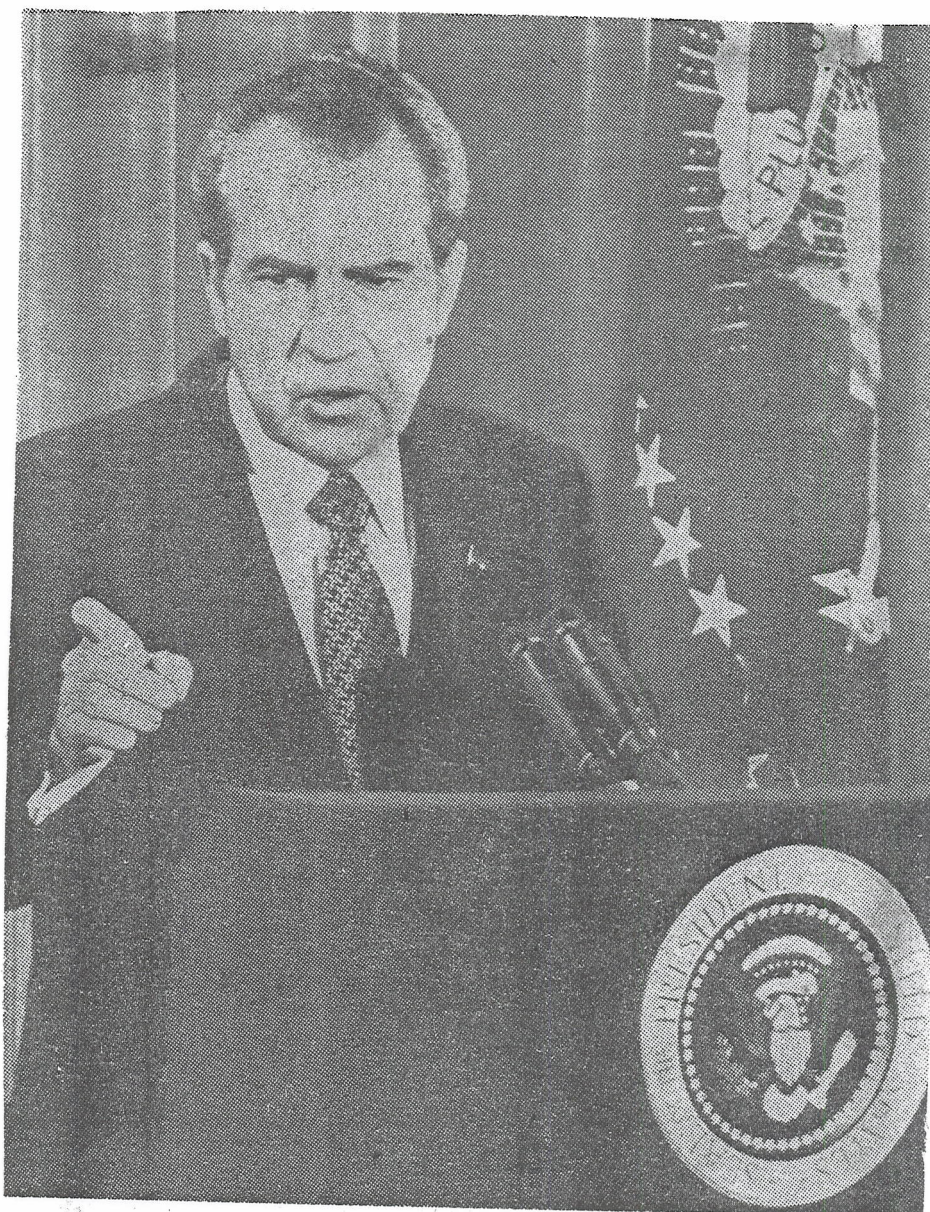
His second such reference was far more pointed, coming in response to a question about whether he should resign. On this occasion Mr. Nixon implicitly compared those who criticized him on Watergate and for firing Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox with his Indochina war critics.

"But I stuck it out, and as a result of that we not only got our prisoners of war home, as I've often said, on their feet rather than on their knees, but we brought peace to Vietnam," Mr. Nixon said.

And, Mr. Nixon said, he intends to stick it out again.

#### EMOTIONS

When the President was asked by Jerry F. ter Horst of the Detroit News how he was "bearing up emotionally under the stress of recent events," he spoke of the quality "I guess I must have



PRESIDENT NIXON AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE  
He said of impeachment: 'I'm glad they don't vote in this (press) room'

## 'VICIOUS' REPORTING

inherited from my midwestern mother and father."

That quality, he said, was "that the tougher it gets, the cooler I get."

Clark R. Mollenhoff of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, a former Nixon employee and a frequent presidential critic, succeeded in getting the floor by outshouting several other reporters.

"You are so loud, I will have to take you," the President said with an expression of regret.

"I have to be, because you happen to dodge my questions all the time," Mollenhoff replied.

"You had three last time," the President said.

After this colloquy the news conference ended with Mollenhoff shouting a question for Mr. Nixon to "explain the rationale of a law-and-order administration covering up evidence . . . of high crime and misdemeanors."

Mr. Nixon, replying in kind, said that "perhaps all of the other reporters in the room are aware of the fact that we have waived executive privilege on all individuals in the administration. It has been the greatest waiver of executive privilege in the whole history of this nation."