

Nixon remarks called 'unworthy' by editors

United Press

News executives got just as tough yesterday as President Nixon when he attacked the press.

In his news conference, Nixon said he was the target of "outrageous, vicious, distorted reporting," particularly by broadcast commentators.

"It is pathetic to see the last soldier standing gracelessly, flailing away at smoke," said Doug Turner, executive editor of the Buffalo Courier-Express.

Nixon's remarks were "unworthy of a President," said Frank Anderson, city editor of the Long Beach Independent and Press-Telegram.

"The press didn't make Watergate, just reported it. But I think he just confirms his own bias, the bias he's had since he's been in politics," Anderson said.

CBS News president Richard Salant said, "We are familiar, of course, with all

of our own news broadcasts, as well as those of the other networks, and we are convinced that none of the network reporting justifies the adjectives the President used last night."

Reg. Murphy, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, called the President's attack "just one more indication of how serious the problem is at the White House now.

"By describing himself as not being angry at people he couldn't respect, he seems to think that we are not worthy of his personal feelings," Murphy said. "That never has been our goal and ought never to be our goal. We ought to be involved in reporting the news and in fact that is what has created the problem for this Administration.

"Trying to blame a group of dedicated reporters for the outrages of his own administration will make no sense to an American public which is already fed up with the activities of this administration," Murphy said.