

Nixon to Cite TV Bias

The White House has agreed to provide evidence of what President Nixon has called "outrageous, vicious, distorted reporting" by television networks, an officer of the National News Council said here yesterday.

If the citations are forthcoming, associated director Ned Schnurman said, the non-profit watchdog agency is willing to investigate.

Although the President made the allegations last October, Schnurman said efforts to get documentation on them have been stymied by the White House until recently.

Schnurman, in Northern California for a journalism fraternity meeting, said the news council hopes to get citations by May 1 and then set up some sort of public hearing to investigate them.

The 8-month-old group is also investigating numerous charges of bias against national wire services and feature syndicates, he said.

The council, financed by foundation grants, is charged with investigating complaints concerning accu-

racy and fairness of news presented by the national media.

Major complaints so far include charges that:

- ABC-TV engaged in "vicious, inaccurate, irresponsible and biased" reporting March 20 in a special on "Oil: The Policy Crisis."

- The New York Times was inaccurate in stories on February 22 and 25 regarding U.S. policies in South Vietnam.

- Newsweek magazine vastly overstated the number of deaths during the coup against late President Salvador Allende.

Schnurman said such complaints are investigated and, if found valid, are brought to the media's attention, although the council has no formal powers.

Other complaints include one by a New Jersey man who was upset at an Agency France-Pressé story asserting that too much carrot juice may be injurious to human health.

The council wrote to the Philadelphia Inquirer, which

published the story, suggesting that its nutritional writer might be able to assist in the man's complaint.

The council's address is One Lincoln plaza, New York, N.Y. 10023.