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## U.S. Papers Criticized

By Briton on Watergate

NY Times

HONG KONG, May 24 (AP) — Lord Thomson, publisher of The Times of London, said today that President Nixon had been "crucified by American newspapers" in their Watergate coverage "even though subsequent events showed the newspapers were right."

Lord Thomson told a Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club luncheon that Mr. Nixon "was found guilty by newspapers before he was proven guilty."

"This kind of character assassination is much more difficult in England because British laws provide more safeguards for a man's reputation," he said.

On the press in his own country, Lord Thomson predicted that all nine national newspapers were headed for a bad year because "there are just too many newspapers and too little advertising."