

New Leak of 'Ethnic Slurs'

Washington

President Nixon, in a discussion of news leaks, remarked to John W. Dean III on Feb. 28, 1973:

"Some of our Jewish friends in the media have an in around here. Kissinger leaks, Simon leaks and Stein leaks." The quotation, taped but deleted from a transcript made public by the President, was leaked to The Los Angeles Times yesterday in the midst of a rumor-filled controversy over whether Mr. Nixon made derogatory ethnic remarks in that conversation as well as one in March 20, 1973.

After the New York Times reported that Mr. Nixon had made "disparaging remarks about Jews and called Judge John J. Sirica a 'Wop,'" White House counsel J. Fred Buzhardt denied there were any deleted slurs on the tapes.

Buzhardt reiterated his position Sunday after Representative Jerome R. Waldie (Dem-Antioch), a member of the House Judiciary Committee studying impeachment, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that there were "defamatory ethnic references" deleted from the February 28 transcript.

Although Waldie refused to

cite the alleged "defamatory" remarks, he accused Buzhardt and "perhaps the President" of "gross insensitivity."

Representative Edward Mezvinsky (Dem-Iowa) a Jewish member of the committee, said in an interview yesterday, "I do not accept the White House interpretation of the remark . . . I feel in some respects stronger" than Waldie about it.

However, another strong critic of the President on the committee — who asked not to be identified — said he did not find the remark offensive.

One of the three sources of news leaks cited by the President as Jewish is not Secretary of the Treasury William F. Simon is a Roman Catholic.

Also, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, though born to Jewish parents, does not practice the Jewish religion and does not belong to a Jewish organization.

Herbert E. Stein, the third administration official is chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and Jewish.

Waldie, Mezvinsky and some other committee members were privately advised by the impeachment staff

about the text of the Jewish-leaks remark as well as the contents of other deleted material.

The staff was able to report the information because the committee has a copy of the February 28 tape. The committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.), and ranking minority member Edward Hutchinson (Rep-Mich.), kept the information from committee members during evidentiary hearings apparently because they considered it irrelevant to the impeachment inquiry.

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