

Scott Says Tapes Show Nixon Lied to Him in '73

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (UPI) —The Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott, said today that President Nixon had lied to him about White House involvement in Watergate.

Senator Scott said tapes played for the jury in the Watergate cover-up trial showed that Mr. Nixon misinformed him on March 20, 1973, the same day Mr. Nixon discussed the existence of such involvement with H. R. Halde- man, then White House chief of staff.

"I did not know on March 20, 1973, that the President of the United States had lied to me," Mr. Scott told reporters today.

He said that after a morning meeting with Mr. Nixon, he went before newsmen and

strongly denied any White House involvement. He said Mr. Nixon had told him "no one in the White House was involved."

The Pennsylvania Senator said the first such instance of misstatements from the former President came on the day Mr. Nixon nominated Gerald R. Ford as Vice President. Mr. Scott said he was called to the White House, where Mr. Nixon told him that he was not going to be the choice because Mr. Nixon feared a Republican leadership battle in the Senate.

The Senator said he then asked whether Mr. Ford, then House minority leader, was disqualified for the same reason.

"He said 'Sure', Mr. Scott said. Later that day, Mr. Scott in-

dicated to reporters that Mr. Ford was out of contention, later damaging Mr. Scott's credibility with some newsmen. Mr. Scott said he did not subsequently accuse Mr. Nixon of lying to him on that occasion, but said it was "at the very least an evasion."

* See also WXP 12 Jan 75, "How Richard Nixon Chose Gerald Ford," by Lloyd Shearer.