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## Evangelist Saw Nixon As Changed

Religious News Service

DALLAS—Evangelist Billy Graham said here that he and other friends of former President Nixon "don't know what happened" to produce the changes in Mr. Nixon that became apparent in the last year.

At a news conference while here to serve as grand marshal in the annual Cotton Bowl parade, Mr. Graham disclosed that he had spoken with Mr. Nixon by telephone on two occasions since the former President's resignation.

"He is a little bit better physically and mentally," the evangelist said. "But the pressures of the last months almost crushed him. He is not a well man—even on the telephone, that is apparent."

Referring to the White House tapes that were made public during the Watergate cover-up trial, Mr. Graham commented, "The Nixon on those tapes was not the Nixon we all knew. Many of his other friends said they hardly recognized his tone of voice. Those of us who knew him don't know what happened."

Asked whether he thought the Nixon Administration had taken advantage of his friendship with Mr. Nixon to bolster the former President's image, the evangelist replied, "There's always that possibility." He said he did not think Mr. Nixon had personally done this, but added that "some of his staff may have tried to do so."

Mr. Graham speculated, "Maybe I was naive at that time; maybe I was used. I just don't know."