

Stanton Denies Seeking

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26—Dr. Frank M. Stanton, former president of CBS Inc., denied today published assertions that he had once promised to alter his network's coverage of the Nixon Administration in return for White House assistance in killing a 1971 contempt of Con-

gress citation against him and CBS.

Dr. Stanton's denial followed publication of an article in this week's issue of Variety that said an alleged offer "to cooperate on network news stories" with the Nixon Administration had been tendered by the CBS executive at a meeting with Charles W. Colson, then a

White House Deal in '71

special counsel to President Nixon.

Mr. Colson, reached by telephone at his suburban Virginia home here, said that the meeting occurred two or three days after the House of Representatives had voted to kill the proposed citation. He said the meeting had taken place at Dr. Stanton's "initiative."

The move to recommit the citation to the House Commerce Committee was endorsed by both Democratic and Republican leaders in the House, and ended the committee's efforts to subpoena for its investigation of network news fairness film that had been edited Oct. 1 of a controversial CBS documentary, "The Selling of the Pentagon."

'Didn't Seek Meeting

Mr. Colson, who has been released from Federal prison after having served part of a sentence in connection with the Watergate scandals, said in the interview that Dr. Stanton had repeatedly sought his assistance in blocking the Commerce Committee's efforts before the House vote.

Dr. Stanton confirmed in a subsequent telephone interview that the meeting referred to by

Mr. Colson had taken place, but he denied that it had taken place at his request, or that he had ever asked Mr. Colson or anyone else in the Nixon White House for help in halting the contempt move.

"I didn't seek the meeting," Dr. Stanton said, adding that he had agreed to Mr. Colson's request for a conference in hopes of opening a dialogue with top Nixon aides, some of whom had been critical of the network's Washington news bureau.

Mr. Colson, who said he had surreptitiously recorded the Stanton meeting with a tape recorder, disputed that version, asserting that CBS had "asked for the help" in advance of the vote and had "then volunteered to help us."

Mr. Colson, who said that the recording of his conversation, at which Henry C. Cashman, another White House aide, was also present, had been left behind in White House files when he resigned in March, 1973.

Mr. Cashman, reached at his law office here, confirmed that he had been present at the Colson-Stanton meeting, but declined to comment on his recollections of what had happened.