

N.Y. City Bar Is Reportedly Trying Nixon

New York

NBC news reported last night that the association of the bar of the city of New York is holding a secret disbarment trial of former President Nixon.

Mr. Nixon has several times tried to resign from the city bar, the network said, but it is the policy of the bar that any resignation because of allegations of wrongdoing be accompanied by an admission of guilt — in this case, guilt in connection with the Watergate scandal.

NBC said Mr. Nixon has refused to admit any guilt and to accept legal papers on the disbarment proceedings forwarded to his home in San Clemente, Calif.

Mr. Nixon has protested to the bar that because he has submitted his resignation it has no authority to hold the proceedings.

The network said the trial before an unnamed judge began earlier this month. Mr. Nixon's lawyers are not participating in the closed-door proceeding, NBC said, but he does know the nature of the proceedings.

NBC said that if the former president is found guilty and is disbarred, the record of the proceedings would be made public. In that event, NBC said, Mr. Nixon's lawyers may try to have the guilty verdict expunged.

Mr. Nixon already has resigned without incident from the California bar.