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Nixon-Frost tape last of interviews

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Himself the subject of a coming "60 Minutes" story on CBS, David Frost today meets with Richard M. Nixon to tape the last of his exclusive interviews with Nixon on the latter's career and the Watergate scandal that cost him the presidency.

As with 11 previous interviews, today's session is being taped in tight security at a private home in South Laguna, 12 miles north of Nixon's posh beachfront estate in San Clemente.

Marvin Minoff, executive vice president of Frost's production company, insisted by phone earlier this week he didn't know what areas will be covered in today's final interview with Nixon.

The tapings, which began March 23 and for which Frost reportedly paid Nixon \$600,000, will be edited into four 90-

minute shows to be aired in the United States and overseas for four weeks in May.

The shows, to air domestically on May 4, 12, 19 and 25, won't be on any of the three major U.S. networks, which declined to pay the fee sought to interview the ex-president.

The programs instead will be on 138 stations, of which 15 are independents, three are public TV outlets and the rest are network affiliates, says Leonard Koch, a top executive at Syndicast Services, a New York firm hired to distribute the shows.

Excluding New York's WNEW, which will air the shows at 8:30 p.m., each Nixon-Frost interview will start at 7:30 p.m. in the East and West and an hour earlier in the Midwest, he said.

In addition, the audio portion of each

interview will be simultaneously fed to the 730 affiliates of the Mutual Broadcasting System, which bought radio rights to air the interviews. Frost's company declines to say how much was paid by Mutual.

To guard against premature disclosures that could lessen the impact — and ratings — of what Nixon tells Frost, no tapes of the shows are being provided stations in advance.

Instead, they'll be transmitted over a special national hookup at the time and day of each scheduled broadcast.

And although correspondent Mike Wallace and a "60 Minutes" crew from CBS News has been putting together a story on Frost, they haven't been allowed to attend any of the Nixon interviews, according to Frost's partner, Minoff.

He said they won't be provided excerpts from the interviews, nor will they be allowed to see what's been taped prior to broadcast.

A CBS spokeswoman in New York said the "60 Minutes" story on Frost is tentatively scheduled to air May 1. Four days before Nixon's first program with the British talk show star is televised.

She quoted Don Hewitt, executive producer of the CBS show, as declining to say if the Frost segment he plans will include an excerpt of the Nixon interviews.

Minoff said no network will be allowed to tape broadcasts of the Nixon interviews for inclusion in its own news programs.