There was widespread speculation that Frost or his agents made the transcripts available to the two newspapers. The transcripts were prepared for use in the Watergate coverup trials but were never admitted into evidence.

Normally, only prosecutors and defense lawyers would have access to the transcripts.

Special Watergate Prosecutor Charles Ruff said yesterday that no one on his staff leaked the tran-

Defense attorneys also denied passing the material to reporters.

"None of this matter came from our office or any of my staff

or former staff," Ruff told reporters.

"I don't know where David Frost might have got them (the tapes)," former assistant special prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste said. "They didn't get them from the special prosecutors."

The transcripts were among 28 tapes prepared for the Watergate coverup trial but never introduced as evidence. Ruff said the tapes are sealed from the public by order of a three-judge federal court panel, at least until the Supreme Court decides whether Nixon or the government owns them.

"The tapes are located in the Executive Office Building," Ruff said. "Copies of certain tapes are

located in the special prosecutor's

John Wilson, defense attorney for former Nixon aide H.R. Haldeman, said there were probably "a dozen ways," the tapes could have been leaked to the news media. He said he was unsure if he had ever seen these specific tapes, and speculated that Frost might have been instrumental in leaking them to bolster publicity about his interviews with Nixon.

There was no answer at Nixon's home yesterday to telephone calls inquiring about the new Watergate coverup reports. Frost could not be reached for comment either.

Former White House counsel Charles Colson, who participated in many of the new conversations with Nixon, dismissed the transcripts.

"This is a beautiful PR (Public Relations) job for David Frost," Colson said. "I'm astonished that so much news could be made out of old hash. There's some gross inaccuracies, gross distortion.

The transcripts included:

 A Nixon-Colson conversation on June 20, 1972, three days after the Watergate burglary, in which Nixon talks about being involved in "a dangerous job," and uses the Watergate catchword "stonewall" for the first time Watergate. "stonewall" for the first time. This is the same day that investigators

What Nixon **Now Admits** On Watergate

Washington

In a forthcoming television interview, Richard Nixon admits he sought to "politically contain" the Watergate scandal — and says he made a mistake by trying to use the CIA to block investigations into it.

Bits of the interview and of viously undisclosed White previously House tapes implicating Nixon fur-ther in the Watergate scandal appeared in major newspapers and news magazines yesterday, amid suggestions the leaks were orchestrated to get maximum publicity for the television show.

Newsweek and Time magazines came out yesterday evening with cover stories on Nixon, quoting portions of the David Frost interviews which begin Wednesday night on stations across the coun-

CBS' "60-Minutes" program also included a segment about the Frost-Nixon interviews.

In the TV interview, according to Time magazine, Nixon discusses his reasons for the Watergate containment:

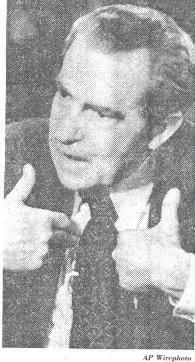
"My motive in everything I was saying or certainly thinking at the time was not to try to cover up a criminal action, but ... to be sure that as far as any slip-over — or should I say slop-over, I think, would be a better word — (to prevent) any slop-over in a way that would damage innocent people.

'We weren't going to allow people in the White House, people in the committee, at the highest levels who were not involved, to be smeared by the whole thing," Nixon says. "In other words, we were trying to politically contain it."

In the Time magazine article, Frost is quoted as asking about Nixon's efforts to use the Central Intelligence Agency and warnings against interfering with national security matters to get the FBI off the Watergate investigation.

"For the first time, Nixon, his taut face betraying his discomfort, admits publicly that his repeated claim that he was only trying to keep the FBI out of national security matters is 'untrue,' " the Time account said.

"He concedes: 'It was a grievous mistake to have gotten the



NIXON ON THE TV SHOW 'A grievous mistake'

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CIA involved in this thing," Time

Another account, in Newsweek, quotes Nixon as conceding his actions were motivated by politics — not national security. But Nixon is quoted as saying his personal knowledge of Watergate events is "very limited."

After some reports circulated last week indicating that Frost's four televised interviews with Nixon contained little in the way of sensational news, and Business Week magazine reported that much of the commercial time remained unsold, transcripts appeared yesterday in the Washington Post and New York Times of White House conversations implicating Nixon further in the Watergate coverup.

30 San Francisco Chronicle * * Mon., May 2, 1977





found an 181/2-minute gap on a tape in which Nixon and Haldeman discussed the break-in.

prosecutor's transcript. already public, and the term "hush money" is not in the Watergate tapes. Colson said this tape is the subject was brought up in other • A Nixon-Colson conversa-tion on Jan. 8, 1973, in which the burglars — several months before President purportedly discusses hush money for the Watergate



AP Wirephotos

asks Haldeman: "My God, what the hell have we done to be imat one point. On April 26, Nixon one jump ahead of the (expletive) sheriff," he complains to Haldeman possibility of being impeached in April of 1973 — more than a year mittee began its hearings. "We kept peached?" before the House Judiciary Com-Nixon was preoccupied with the Several statements showing

There were conflicting reports on what Nixon told Frost in the Watergate interview.

most of the time. that Nixon had "stonewalled" Frost moments" late in the interview, but that there were some "climactic familiar with the contents as saying The Times quoted a source

attorney would do in a trial. missions — much as a prosecuting prepared to use the new transcripts to trap Nixon into Watergate ad-The Post said Frost had been

transcripts reveal: Other portions of the new

- as A. Pappas, a prominent Republican, was involved in the effort to raise hush money. John Dean would reveal that Thom-Nixon was concerned that
- nan and Thurgood Marshall as • Nixon characterized Supreme Court Justices William Bren-
- taping system would never be made public and told Haldeman: "I don't think it should ever get out that we taped this office." • Nixon voiced confidence that existence of the White House

United Press