

# Nixon Broke the Law, Carter Says

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WASHINGTON, May 12—President Carter said today that, in his opinion, Richard Nixon violated the law and was guilty of impeachable offenses during his tenure in the White House.

Mr. Carter made the remarks about the former President in an informal conversation with reporters after his news conference here. In his campaign last year, Mr. Carter called the pardon of Mr. Nixon "improper or ill-advised" and said that the former President would have faced "inevitable conviction" in an open trial.

Today, as President, Mr. Carter said that the first televised interview with the former President by David Frost had not changed his opinion. "I personally think that he did violate the law," he said. "I think he did commit impeachable offenses."

Mr. Carter suggested that Mr. Nixon had "rationalized in his own mind that he did all these things for the

benefit of his staff members and so forth, and that he didn't have any criminal intent."

The news conference had focused mainly on Mr. Carter's trip to London and Geneva, and he was not asked about his response to Mr. Nixon's first appearance on television since the former President's resignation in August 1974—although he had been prepared for just such a question.

Afterward, however, before leaving the auditorium, Mr. Carter stood in a large circle of reporters and talked at length about his feelings. Some of the European leaders he had met in London had mentioned "the resurrection of Watergate" by the broadcasts, he said, and had deplored it.

He said he did not plan to watch the second interview scheduled for broadcast tonight.

"I've got other things to do," he said.

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