

Nixon's Insult Didn't Faze Ellsberg

Los Angeles

Daniel Ellsberg said yesterday it didn't bother him when Richard Nixon called him a "punk" on national television.

Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers to the press, said he learned a lot from the third David Frost interview Thursday, particularly Nixon's statement that it was legal for the President to do anything short of murder to crush dissent during the Vietnam war.

"He is simply talking of a

presidential ability to suspend the Bill of Rights," Ellsberg told reporters at International Airport.

He suggested that Nixon had a "monarchical view of his powers" similar to that of King George III of England.

"That's the point of view that the Constitution was written to refute," he added, "that the revolution was fought to resist."

Ellsberg said he could understand why Nixon might think of

him as a punk and said he would not be surprised by stronger language.

"He was looking back with Frost at his shameful termination of office, which was brought on in large part by his reaction to me and what I had done," he said.

"And I think then that when he thinks about me, what he had to say was understandable and probably very mild compared to what he feels."

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