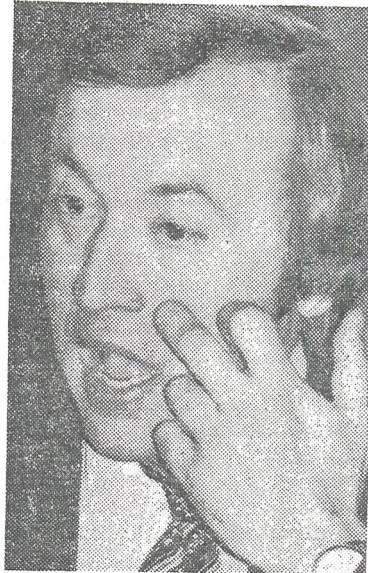


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# 'Nixon felt interviews were fair but tough'



David Frost: Surprised

By Tom Eastham  
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WASHINGTON — "The surprising thing is that he will still talk to me — in view of his attitude toward others ..."

David Frost is talking about Richard Nixon.

"I felt when we got to Watergate and those things that there would be no further relationship. The real surprise is that in the end — after the interviews — he felt they were fair but tough. I would hope others would feel they were fair but tough, but it is surprising that he did."

Did the British TV journalist, after 28 hours of interviews, develop a friendship with Nixon?

"Well, really, it was all on such a professional level. You really didn't become friendly. A kind of ... chemistry, perhaps. A level of understanding, not a closeness.

"He is the kind of man who is more relaxed on camera than off camera — where conversations were cordial but not relaxed."

Does Nixon feel any guilt?

"I thought there was a real sense of remorse in parts of the interviews. Part of the way through the second day there was a change — suddenly he wanted to say more and more, to speak. It cost him a lot to say he let the country down. There was a real sense of remorse at that moment."

Why did Nixon want to do the interviews at all?

"He hopes history will give him some good marks as well as the black marks — that was the purpose.

In discussing the timing with Nixon, Frost explained that advertisers would prefer to broadcast before summer, while audiences are larger.

"We got a hell of an audience on Aug. 9, 1974," Nixon responded, referring to the date he resigned.

Frost said his one regret is that he forgot to ask Nixon who Deep Throat was.