HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMENT BY PRIME MINISTER REGARDING AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

QUESTION

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Questioner LYNCH, Phillip
Responder WHITLAM, Gough
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Mr LYNCH (FLINDERS, VICTORIA—) (NaN.NaN pm) - My question is addressed to the Prime Minister. The honourable gentleman will be aware of Press reports both in Australia and overseas which have interpreted his comments at question time yesterday concerning President Nixon and the American Presidency as a deliberate and premeditated insult. I ask the honourable gentleman: Were his remarks made deliberately or as a consequence of his characteristic impetuosity and arrogance? In view of the vital importance of future United States-Australian relations will he retract modify or reinterpret the comments which he made at question time yesterday?

Mr WHITLAM (WERRIWA, NEW SOUTH WALES—Prime Minister) (NaN.NaN pm) - There could have been no deliberate reply or premeditated reply to a question without notice from my predecessor. If there was any insult it was made by my predecessor in using the word 'Watergate'.