

## *ABC Delays Ford Visit, Cites Election*

By LES BROWN

A tour with President Ford of the Presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., which was filmed last weekend as an episode of ABC-TV's "The Reasoner Report," has been withheld from broadcast this Saturday on the ground that its political overtones might be considered an influence on Tuesday's elections.

William Sheehan, president of ABC News, said the decision was made to present the program Nov. 16, because some of the President's statements went beyond a tourguide's comments and could be considered political.

Mr. Ford became available for the program on short notice, and ABC News had intended to air it at the earliest possible date, until its officials realized that televising it just before the elections might give it unintended political colorations and invite a demand for equal time from the Democrats.

ABC News had initially requested the cooperation of the White House for a program on Camp David during the Nixon Administration and renewed the request when Mr. Ford became President.

### **Pre-emptions in the Fall**

The program, which features Harry Reasoner, the news commentator, is carried in New York and most other cities at 6:30 Saturday evenings, making it subject to football-game pre-emptions during the fall. "The Reasoner Report" will not

be scheduled the Saturday after elections because of football coverage.

This month, the White House granted a pending request from CBS News for an exclusive interview with President Ford, to be conducted by Walter Cronkite, but the network turned down the opportunity because it would have occurred during the political campaign.

ABC's request for the Camp David program was granted at around the same time. Mr. Sheehan said that there had been no commitment with the White House for an air date and that ABC News was left to schedule the program at its discretion.