

Addendum

Further Information Relating To The Analysis  
Of Gerald Ford's Role: The September 15 Transcript

On page 18 of the analysis, it notes that it is somewhat unclear in the transcript as to whether or not President Nixon was referring to Gerald Ford or Nixon aide Dick Cook when the President said:

Maybe Ehrlichman should talk to him.  
Ehrlichman understands the law, and  
the rest, and should say "Now God damn  
it, get the hell over with this."

The analysis concluded that the circumstances of that exchange of remarks in the transcript would almost certainly indicate that Nixon was indeed referring to Ford, and not to Cook - particularly in view of the President's other lengthy remarks about Ford's role in stopping the investigation.

The analysis further noted (on page 20) that it was again almost certain that President Nixon was speaking of Gerald Ford (and not Dick Cook) when the President said:

I'm getting into this thing. So that he -  
he's got to know that it comes from the top...  
That's what he's got to know...he's got to get  
at this and screw this thing up while he can..."

In any event, it can now be determined that Nixon was definitely referring to Gerald Ford in those passages on those two pages. With the subsequent publication of the House Judiciary's Statements of Information, the exact nature of Nixon's remarks were cleared up. In HJC "Book II - Events Following the Watergate Break-In" (pages 640, 644-5) H.R. Haldeman's handwritten notes taken while he listened to a tape of that meeting are reproduced. The Haldeman notes clearly show that Gerald Ford definitely was the person to whom Nixon was referring in those two passages. (See the Attached).

✓ yes

P - maybe E should talk to Ford - get at this & screw it up

D - Guy Brown wrote Klast et al - very helpful

D - re depmantions of Dems - that they proposed to do this  
H - gives us the same thing because they have

P - letter forward to just under control 00 124  
ref IRS doing him

D - can't get Krumelmann's file - Alf Skelley  
prob - so many Dems - we can't get in  
round & round for two years

H - don't take mind before elect - after file complaints

disc. of cleaning house - after elect -  
need a plan to call expts - have to do it fast  
all resign at after elections

H - project going full tilt

D - you know lot about people when the crowd is on  
you get some surprise

disc re had effect of education - draft dodgers etc

D - re reading book about Aust

P - arguing with file in

50.8 J.H. HALDEMAN NOTES OF LISTENING TO TAPE RECORDING  
OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1972 MEETING

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Page three D - can be proud of WH staff has no probs -  
GAO audit - Spkr sent him to audit WH -  
H - we shld put heat on him  
shld fight back  
D - puh wl be whitewash chg  
now Patman hearings  
Rothblatt & Bittman wl try to turn off rts of dfts  
Get ACLU in  
don't want Stans up in fnt of cameras  
Suggs Conn tk to Patman  
Gerry Ford  
chg campaign reports of all membs of Comm - get rough  
P analyzes members of Comm.  
D - that's the last forum  
Kenn may do something  
can spin out horrors - stopped doing that  
just take one at time  
P - worst may happen - can't plan on that  
D - its had no effect on P  
H - kept away frm WH almost completely - P totally  
Cols. effort fell thru  
D - two low levels indicted  
may never get fair trial  
P - Post wl have probs - TV stn renewed - radio stn too  
has to be played rough - re Patman  
who wl fl thru - cld M - no

Page four ✓ P - maybe E shld talk to Ford - get at this & screw it up  
D. Gerry Brown wrote Kldst ltr - very helpful  
D - re depositions of Dems - that they conspired to do this  
H gives us the same hunting license they have

Page five P - maybe E shld talk to Ford - get at this & screw it up  
D. Gerry Brown wrote Kldst ltr - very helpful  
D - re depositions of Dems - that they conspired to do this  
H gives us the same hunting license they have  
P - lks forward to Just. under control  
ref IRS doing him  
D - can't get Kimmelman's file - [unreadable] Shultz  
prob - so many Dems - we can't get in  
round & round for two years  
H - don't take risk before elect - after f/u complaints  
disc. of cleaning house - after elect -  
need a plan to chall appts - have to do it fast  
all resigs rt. after elections  
H - project going full tilt

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Further Information Possibly Related To The Analysis

A further piece of information that may relate to the foregoing analysis of the Gerald Ford role is provided by the somewhat mysterious circumstances under which then Vice President Ford listened to two secret White House tapes, three weeks before Nixon resigned.

For several months prior to the resignation, Vice President Ford was repeatedly asked if he had listened to any of the Nixon tapes or seen any undisclosed transcripts taken from them.

On January 20, 1974, Senator Hugh Scott had declared on "Face The Nation" that he had been shown evidence which totally proved that President Nixon was innocent of all the charges against him. Scott said the White House had made this evidence available to him, but has never disclosed what it purportedly was.

Two days later, on January 22, 1974, Vice President Ford stated that he had "not had time" to view the evidence at the White House, but that he certainly would take Senator Scott's word that it did indeed prove Nixon's total innocence.

In subsequent months, Vice President Ford revealed that he had turned down subsequent offers from the White House to take a look at this evidence. Ford at first said that he had been too busy to inspect the evidence, and later stated that "as the man who would succeed President Nixon" he would prefer not to sit in judgement by looking at this evidence, even though "I know he's innocent."

Yet on July 18, 1974, just three weeks before Nixon resigned, Vice President Ford made the surprising announcement that he had changed his mind and had finally listened to two Nixon White House tapes. (See the Times, July 19, p. 19).

When Ford was asked where he had listened to the two tapes, Ford replied that he had not heard them at the White House or the Judiciary Committee.

Minutes later, in response to another reporter's question, Ford said that his previous statement was incorrect and that he had indeed listened to one of the two tapes at the White House, and had listened to the second tape "elsewhere."

Ford did not disclose where this second listening session had taken place. And Ford further did not disclose which two tapes he had listened to.

When asked why he had suddenly changed his mind and listened to the tapes, Ford stated:

"This was after the discrepancies arose and it was my interest to find out the quality of the tapes, and after listening to parts of two of them, I came to the conclusion that it's very understandable how there could be a different interpretation of the words that were spoken."

Due to the fact that Vice President Ford's statement about listening to the two tapes came later in the day after the Judiciary Committee had released five volumes of evidence on Watergate, the Ford statement received scant attention and little or no followup.

It remains unknown what two tapes Ford listened to, where he listened to them, who was present while he heard them, and who selected the ones he listened to.