

14 Nov 73

- This is the day, according to Higby's testimony, that he had a phone conversation with Haldeman, then in California; no indication who initiated call. Higby says that in this conversation - around noon - Haldeman (WXP's wording) "told him of the missing segment." Higby: "I think he said it had been caused by Miss Woods." Higby says Haldeman might have first mentioned the missing segment to him in the course of another phone call on the evening of 15 Nov, but says he thinks it was "the day before."

If Miss Woods was truthful in later testimony, it was on 1 Oct that she told Nixon of her "terrible mistake," and Haldeman could have learned of this through Nixon. She did not testify to this until 26 Nov, and would not take responsibility for more than 5½ minutes of the gap. Had not mentioned ~~this~~ any of this in earlier testimony and at that time had been very irritated when Jill Vollner asked her what precautions she had taken to ensure that nothing was erased from the tape, saying she would not have made such a mistake.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [WXP] - E 4 Dec 73; SFC 9 Nov 73 [NYT]

- This is the date John Bennett says one of the two copies of the tape was signed over to Buzhardt.

WXP 16 Jan 74, Claiborne - E 13 Nov 73, 4

- This is the date Buzhardt says he discovered that 18-minute segment is defective, when he and other Nixon lawyers were playing back the [copy of?] tape to compile index. (Lardner, WXP 6 Dec, says discovery was made in the evening.)

SFC 22 Nov 73 [WXP] - E 14 Nov 73, 21 Nov 73, 1

- Two hand-written notes by John Bennett (evidence released by court 30 Nov) say there were 'two aborts' on tapes of Nixon-Dean conversations, 15 Sep 72 and 13 Mar 73. "The word 'abort' was not explained, although Bennett's notes showed that while laboratory technicians were making copies of the two tapes, the two tapes were, quote, 'tested unsuccessfully.' The same notes indicate, quote 'did test in R's office. No joy.' [No date.] Further, on [14 Nov] Bennett wrote that he entered the White House vault and, quote 'deposited three aborted tapes, extracted briefcase of contents except three aborts left in safe." No date for third "abort."

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