

Nixon Calls Klein, Apologizes For His Derogatory Remarks

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WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Richard Nixon telephoned ex-White House aide Herbert G. Klein Monday to apologize for making derogatory comments about him, according to an account in the Tuesday editions of the Baltimore Sun.

Klein, who left the White House in 1973 without ever having been linked to the Watergate scandal, was quoted by the Sun as saying the former chief executive called him from San Clemente, Calif.

Nixon is currently staying at the former Western White House where he is recuperating from the chain of events which culminated last week in his resignation from office.

Nixon's scathing remarks about the competence of his former White House director of communications were among the disclosures of the June 23, 1972 tapes made public last week.

Those tapes, which ultimately drove Nixon from office, portrayed the ex-president as instructing H.R. Haldeman, then chief of staff, to limit the FBI investigation of the political burglary and thus launch a cover-up.

Klein, a Nixon loyalist for thirty years, was referred to by Nixon as "not having his head screwed on."

In the course of criticizing Klein's method of operation, the President complained to Haldeman, "He just sort of blubbers around . . . sits there with eggs on his face. . . he's just not our guy at all."

According to the Sun, Klein said Nixon came on the phone and said, "Have you got your

head screwed on today?" and sort of laughed.

Klein told the Sun's Washington bureau in a phone call from California he did not find the subject especially funny.

Now a vice president with Metro-Media in Los Angeles, Klein said Nixon went on to say, "It was one of those things I said and I didn't mean it, and I apologize for any embarrassment."

The ex-president added he did not know why he had made such remarks, and that he had "probably said worse things about other people," Klein said.

The former communications director said Nixon sounded reasonably cheerful on the telephone, and told his former aide he was busy "thinking about everything, getting files in order and working on an office budget."

The ex-president has about a dozen aides with him in California and is entitled to an allowance to pay office salaries.

Asked by Klein about writing plans, Nixon said he would probably do so "eventually."

According to Klein, Nixon then added: "I have a lot more notes now than when I wrote 'Six Crises.' In fact, now I've got tapes."

That, observed Klein, he had taken to be meant as a joke.

The association between Klein and Nixon dates back to the days when both were former World War II Navy officers and met during the ex-president's first congressional campaign in California.

Klein was then an editor of the Alhambra (Calif.) Post-Advocate.

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