

CBS News (transcribed from tape)
Allen Jackson

21 April 1973

[The New York Times reports] that advisers to Vice-President Agnew are urging him to completely disassociate himself from the Watergate incident; that, they say, to avoid harmful political repercussions in the 1976 presidential elections. Tomorrow's Times quotes as source close to Agnew as saying the Vice-President must repudiate the Watergate affair, but the source admits that will be a difficult thing for the Vice-President to do without seeming disloyal to the Administration.

In San Francisco a former Johnson Administration aide is calling for new presidential elections for this next November. That story from Jim Hamblin at KCBS:

Hamblin: A former White House aide says the Watergate affair has raised enough questions that President Nixon should now take drastic action. One-time LBJ assistant Thomas Cronin spoke at a seminar on government [Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, public meeting, San Francisco.]

Cronin [voice]: I think Mr. Nixon ought to be asked to conduct a presidential election the first week of this coming November, and to suggest that he will step down and obey the people's mandate, if you will, as of next November in an election. I would give him the six months to [three or four words unintelligible] trial would have to go on, and we have to understand the full facts as best we can in the Watergate. But I think he ought to -- to protect the reputation of the two-party system -- say that he will hold new elections next November. [From background noises, Cronin was addressing the meeting.]

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President Nixon is reported highly incensed over the Watergate bugging scandal. Don Folsom reports from Key Biscayne:

Folsom: Some in the White House are trying to sell the line that Mr. Nixon is enraged over the Watergate scandal, and deeply hurt that a number of his most trusted aides were apparently intimately involved. But the President's reported anger could also be associated with the serious consequences the scandal could have on his own ability to govern for the next four years. Many political observers now believe Mr. Nixon's own power and prestige will suffer badly because of Watergate. Some predict that the scandal, along with the normal lame-duck disadvantages of any office holder will combine to drain the President of a great deal of his authority. Don Folsom, at the Florida White House..