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Time Magazine, March 20, 1995. (on sale 3-13-95)

A Sneak Peak at Oliver Stone's Nixon

TIME has obtained a draft of the script for Oliver Stone's next slated film, Nixon. The script, written by Steve Rivele and Chris Wilkinson, is not nearly as convoluted as Stone's JFK—at least not at this stage of its development. Nevertheless, Nixon will apparently offer lots of cud for the director's conspiracy-theory fans to chew. Though the screenplay begins with a prologue confessing that "some scenes ... have been imagined," it also contends that the script "is based on numerous public sources and on incomplete historical findings" (emphasis added). Among the more esoteric "findings":



• While Vice President, Nixon allegedly organized an ill-fated covert plan to assassinate Fidel Castro. The plan, known as "Track 2" (the Bay of Pigs was "Track 1"), was to have been carried out by a shadowy, group of CIA agents, Cubans, mobsters and right-wing businessmen.

• Three years later, this same group, which never disbanded, assassinated J.F.K. on its own initiative, thus making Nixon somewhat complicit in the murder.

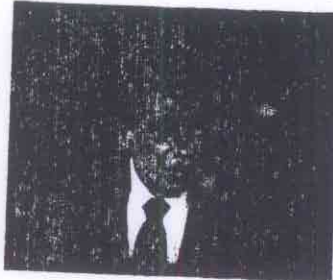
• During the 1968 presidential election, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover threatened Nixon with his knowledge of Track 2; the script also implies that Hoover had some foreknowledge of Robert Kennedy's assassination.

• E. Howard Hunt, who was part of the Watergate burglary team, black-

malled the White House into paying him hush money—not so much because of his role in the burglary, however, as because he had worked directly under Nixon on Track 2.

• Nixon himself erased the famous 18½ minutes of White House tape because it contained references to Track 2.

• White House chief of staff Alexander Haig ultimately pressured Nixon into resigning by implying that some unnamed second party had a pristine copy of the erased tape.



• Of further interest: the script has Nixon literally haunted by the ghosts of his mother and Alger Hiss. The President also anticipates Lloyd Bentsen's famous put-down of Dan Quayle when he turns away an amorous Pat Nixon with the words "I'm not Jack Kennedy."

2. Now Wait a Minute!: Filmmaker Oliver Stone issued a denial after Time magazine reported he had a new conspiracy theory for his planned movie about Richard Nixon. The magazine said one early script has the former President organizing a hit squad to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro, but the group turns wild and instead assassinate John F. Kennedy. "Ridiculous," said Stone, who took plenty of heat from scholars for the version of the Kennedy assassination portrayed in his movie "JFK." In a statement, Stone said: "If the media will allow us to finish writing the script, then shoot and edit the movie and present it to the public, I believe that we will be able to offer our audience an exciting and sympathetic portrait of the most controversial President in our history." —ART BERMAN

L.A. Times, 3-16-95
Specter Sets Date for Launch of White House Run

From Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania will declare his presidential candidacy on March 30, he said Wednesday. He plans a three-day tour likely to end in Wichita, Kan., the childhood hometown he shares with Sen. Bob Dole, another likely GOP candidate.

Specter has made no secret of his intention to enter the 1996 race. In setting an announcement date, he said he was convinced that his mix of economic conservatism and social libertarianism—including support for abortion rights—has broad appeal in the Republican Party.

"I now know that my view, the view of Goldwater Republicans everywhere, is also my country's view," he said in a statement. "The American people today want to get government out of their pocket-books, off their backs and out of their bedrooms."

As Specter laid out his plans, Dole was endorsed by New York's 14 House Republicans. He also has been endorsed by Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and that state's governor, George Pataki.

4. *Letter to Editor, L.A. Times, 3-17-95*
 ■ Murder, claims of police cover-up, conspiracy, El Salvador, Colombian neckties, exaggerations, lawyers breaking the law, half-truths, insinuations, grandstanding, disregard of evidence. I stopped watching the Simpson trial. I'm going to wait for the Oliver Stone movie and get the "real story."

RAMON ANGELONI
 Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES TIMES

L.A. Times, 3-16-95

Jokes

3. In the news: Comic Argus Hamilton, on Oliver Stone's new movie saying President Nixon organized a death squad back in the 1970s: "They may still be around. So far, they've killed food stamps, health care and school lunches."

5. On "The McLaughlin Group" TV program on NBC Saturday, March 18, 1995, the panelists were asked for predictions. Said Chris Matthews, Washington Correspondent for The San Francisco Examiner:
 "Oliver Stone's movie on Richard Nixon will be as packed with lies as his on John F. Kennedy."