

Dear STM,

later 4/18/74

In skimming the mailing referred to earlier today to pick out what I had noticed, your "Tapes" of 4/15/73, intending to separate it and begin a separate file for that date, not until I counted the minutes and got to the bottom did I see that you had counted them up.

Now, what does 6 hours 17 minutes mean on a 5" reel?

It has to mean a speed slower than 1 7/8, or 15/16, a second Sony, or an automatic reversal on one machine only.

Here the importance of what you have done and the Dean memo I referred to earlier join.

Dean did not phone GL and say "Hey, guy, I gotta see you." As I recall he spoke to Higby. There is no reference to any call from Higby or on the Dean matter in this tabulation and from this tabulation Haldeman (and Ehrlichman) were with Nixon from the time he returned from, I presume, his evening meal.

Nor is there any reference to a call to Haldeman from Higby to set up the Dean meeting.

There are two incoming calls only, both from Petersen, beginning after 5:15 p.m. (dinner break?) or, for that matter, at any time later (two more from Petersen).

Unless Higby just walked in and told Haldeman of Dean's message, how did either Haldeman or GL know about it and how did Dean get seen by GL for more than an hour?

If Higby walked in, his presence should have been noted.

I have checked the hearings (3H1313). Dean's message is dated 8:15. He did phone Higby (3H1015). But GL was on the phone until 8:26 unless it took no time at all to get through to Haldeman, who is not recorded on the phone (conversation with Petersen ended 8:18). Or, Dean heard pronto and dashed to the EOB immediately, to be ushered into The August Presence as immediately.

Can all these things have transpired and not be indicated in any record of what did? (I note the entire GL days from 1:12 seems to have been on WH.)

Now let us return to the arithmetic, 6'17".

We have the limitation of the maximum of two sides, 5", 1/2 mil tape. Or no machine ran out.

Can this be extended by the time required to explain to GL that the already skidding Dean had phoned Higby, the purpose of his call, and for the decision to see the wheel-spinning Dean to be made and communicated?

And from one minute prior to Dean's call to Higby began Haldeman was in GL's presence, constantly, from the chronology.

If the story is that the machines were not tended for the entire weekend and that Saturday's pickup was on the reels, then we have to do the same kind of calculating for that day and into Sunday, 4/15/73

I have trouble not believing the records also were altered. The logs are supposed to show who enters the office and when he departs. No Higby entry here.

It may not be possible to reach any definitive conclusion. But the odds against WH honesty seem pretty large. And I have seen no reporting that the arithmetic was ever done by the press or any committee. Beginning with Saturday a.m., it should be quite easy to count and conclude.

What a Sunday! Until almost midnight and with four calls from Petersen after 8 p.m.!