

Until the statute has run on the last of them, there will be a question about what crimes were committed and by whom. Here control over most of the sources of information, the criminal investigation and the prosecution and the pressure that could be brought on all those who could bring information to light were essential to Nixon and all associated in these numerous criminal acts. It just is not possible that all the crimes will be charged and prosecuted. Indeed, it is as impossible that all will be known. One of the obvious purposes of covering up and obstructing justice is to prevent knowledge and prosecution. Long after the time in which prosecutions can be possible under applicable law there will be arguments about whether or not acts known and to become exposed were criminal.

The Watergate marks one of American history's turning points. It marks a high point, an era in which criminality became the way of the American Presidency and in which it was of such a magnitude the mind boggled in trying to conceive it.

In an effort to catalogue the crimes that as of that day could be charged, The Washington Post asked the help of a federal prosecutor who was not involved in any aspect of The Watergate to list the crimes chargeable under federal law. Others were criminal acts under local law. Examples are the original Democratic break-in, criminal under District of Columbia law; the Ellsberg break-in, criminal under California law; and the wide spectrum of Segretti and Segretti-type lawlessness, which was criminal under the laws of the states in which these operations were carried out and were charged and convictions obtained in Florida prior to the federal taking of jurisdiction, under which Segretti himself copped a plea and went to jail without trial.

It need not be argued whether or not Nixon was involved in the catalogue of official crimes this prosecutor helped the Post tabulated because despite all his rhetoric and explanations that he repeatedly changed as the need presented itself in a series of shameless lies that in themselves could be charged as obstructions of justice, Nixon admitted ordering the withholding from Judge Matt Byrne's California court evidence ~~of~~ about the crimes and about federal misdeeds. "Regardless of what the complete truth may be, he admitted publicly that he knew these facts not later than

March 17, 1973 and prevented informing the court for more than a month, until April 25.

(He then permitted this only to prevent a monumental scandal, resignations by the top law officers who themselves shared this guilt with him and told him they would resign rather than continue it.)

The Post's cataloguing came long before the beginning of real prosecutions. It November 22, 1973 was published as an untimed ghoulsh marking of the tenth anniversary of the assassination that made it possible for Nixon to be President, the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Aside from those mentioned above it includes:

a wide range of conspiracies involving White House personnel, cabinet and sub- and other cabinet officials and CREEP employees of high and relatively high rank and conspiracies to commit a broad spectrum of crime; breaking and entering; burglary; arson; a number of cases of wire-tapping, bugging and interception of mail; perjury (and ~~although it is obvious, subornation of perjury; was forgotten; bribery;~~ lying to the FBI (which can be a crime); bribing a witness; contempt of court; contempt of Congress; destruction of evidence; campaign-finance and other campaign-law violations; blackmail; showing classified documents to an unauthorized person; falsify documents (which is separate from whether forging false identities for use in criminal activity is in itself criminal); an assortment of income-tax violations; defrauding the United States; embezzlement; extortion; slander and libel; malicious mischief; and theft.

This incredible catalogue of crime by and for the President and his White House is incomplete. Others that need not be conjectured are considered in the story. It is also incomplete because it was made before the work of the office of the special prosecutor was really under way. There had been a few convictions based on confession and plea-copping but there had been no federal trial except the first presided over by Judge Sirica. Nixon had seen to this by a series of delaying tactics, including the firing of the first special prosecutor. That was in itself illegal, as federal judge Gerhard Gessell ruled without Nixon's taking an appeal.

Aside from political hurt and me embarrassment, Nixon had much to cover up. These crimes and his plans for a police state, all impeachable offenses, are part of what was covered up in this massive obstruction of justice. *unprecedented in all of history*