

Bugging, Nixon's Personal (Gutloff)

JDW, your 5/12/75 on "Laser 'Bug' in Nixon's Office Reported," WxPost 5/21/75

As usual, you make a persuasive case, as usual for the aspect I had not considered.

I was particularly interested that this is a Szulc story and in parts of the Austin Scott account that make no sense. Like "foreign-born painter" whose name is hidden to protect him. How many can there have been, esp. when all have to have security checks.

Your suggestion of a signal makes sense. It could be based on nothing but would ex-GL have any way of knowing?

Of the unnamed US intelligence agencies, how far past "C" do you think GL would go? (And remember the cracks on the tapes about Helms?)

Of Szulc's sources for such a story, from what he has to know of Szulc do you think for a minute that he would not begin with "C?"

You have a very good point in the lead time of the announcement, exceptional.

So, if we take a different set of facts, that Nixon has made these cracks about CIA and Helms; that he is recovering and has a "track record" of vindictiveness; and that this, whether or not true, is what you call a signal?

Szulc's services to the special branch of the CIA's political divisions cannot be secret from Nixon. If not to me, surely not to him and his.

This therefore can be a signal from those "liberals" in the CIA, going back to prior to the Bay of Pigs.

The signal is shut up. Or, don't open up now that you are getting better and are able (as to play golf).

Behind it can lay what I have in The Unimpeachment, which can even now be very hurtful to Nixon.

I know nothing about lasers. I assume that there are periodic electronic sweeps of the WH and the Pres.'s office spaces. Whether or not lasers would show I do not know. I believe also that ex-GL and his closest also did not. If they had, there would have been no such elemental stupidities as how the mikes were located and mounted. To anyone wanting to give such a signal this alone is clue enough to ignorance of electronic matters. Little as I know I would not have had mikes not protected against vibrations because I'd learned about that years ago. (I see nothing wrong with the use of Sonys but much with the design of the set-up, which again says ignorance.)

You immediately noted the 1970 persistence. It was persistent enough to be a fairly clear indication that a taping system did begin then. However, there may be a different interpretation: that there was a different, perhaps a less sophisticated system installed a year earlier than the one to which Butterfield testified. Say cassette machines in desk drawers with a simple switch to control them.

Add to this your suggestion that there was a CIA plant inside the WH. And that if Nixon didn't know it by this signal or other means he now does.

Does it not become both blackmail and Byzantine?

I wish I'd taken time to try to think this through a month ago, for I'm too tired to do it now. Of the clearly significant factors, that hangup on 1970 and Buzhardt's on correcting it have to be important ones.

There has to be some meaning in this farout affair.

Repeated interruptions. Unfinished.

best HW 5/15/75