

Je's 8/22/73 Nixon San C press conf., tapes.

Confusion deliberate if you read Nixon carefully. This is because, if my recollection is correct, the other tape was one of Dean without Haldeman. The 9/15 one, as I recall, did include periods when Haldeman was not present, despite Nixon's words. What I am looking, listening and then reading regard as the significant and unintended word in all of this is the "we" in "to be sure that we were absolutely correct in our response." GL seems to have made no response. Context does not suggest he meant "I" by "we" does suggest meaning that he and Haldeman knew what they might have to live with. What he says, if inadvertently, is that he had to be sure Haldeman knew so they could jibe on everything.

Nixon press conference, San Clemente

22 Aug 73

The general impression seems to be that Nixon contradicted Haldeman by saying Haldeman listened to one tape while Haldeman said that he listened to two. The confusion is apparently caused by Nixon confining his answer to the tape Haldeman listened to after he left the White House, the tape of 15 Sep 72.

Haldeman (30, 31 Jul 73) testified he had listened to two tapes: that of 15 Sep 72, during period 9 to 11 Jul 73; that of 21 Mar 73, during latter part of Apr 73.

Transcript of press conference (WXP 23 Aug 73, p. 10):

Q. You accepted [the resignations of Ehrlichman, Haldeman and Dean] on April 30th After that, you permitted Mr. Haldeman, after he had left the White House, to hear confidential tapes of conversations you had in your office with Mr. Dean. My question is, why did you permit a man who you knew might be indicted to hear those tapes which you now will not permit the American public or the federal prosecutors handling the case to listen to?

A. The only tape that has been referred [to] that Mr. Haldeman has listened to, he'd listened to at my request. And he listened to that tape, that was the one on September the 15th, Mr. Jarrell, because he had been present and was there. I asked him to listen to it in order to be sure that as far as any allegations that had been made by Mr. Dean with regard to that conversation, I wanted to be sure that we were absolutely correct in our response. That's all he listened to. He did not listen to any tapes in which only Mr. Dean and I participated. He listened only to the tape on September 15th, this is after he left office, in which he participated in the conversation throughout. [Complete.]