

## FYI

**Don't miss it**—A revealing television documentary on the Nixon White House, including candid interviews with members of the original Watergate cast, begins

Sunday, August 7, on the Discovery cable channel. It marks the 20th anniversary of President Nixon's departure from the White House—airborne by helicopter at 12:03 P.M., August 9, 1974.

The "Watergate" series begins with a two-hour segment at 9 P.M., August 7 (all times shown here are Eastern and Pacific; air times in Central and Mountain zones should be adjusted to EDT). The two-hour opening program will be repeated later that night, from midnight to 2 A.M. EDT and PDT.

Parts 3 through 5 run in one-hour segments on Monday through Wednesday, August 8 through 10, at 10 P.M. EDT and PDT. Each will be repeated that night at 1 A.M. Then all the segments will be run back-to-back on Sunday, August 14, from noon to 5 P.M. EDT and PDT.

The five-hour *Watergate* documentary was produced at the BBC by Fred Emery, a former chief Washington correspondent of *The Times* of London who has been a persistent student of the only Presidential resignation in our history. The series presents what Emery calls "circumstantial evidence" that Nixon knew in advance of the Watergate burglary.

Had Nixon resigned when Emery says he first began muttering about it to top aides—as early as April 1973—he would have been succeeded by Spiro Agnew, a Vice President he knew to be under investigation for bribery. Nixon pressed Agnew to resign in October 1973 rather than take a chance at fighting impeachment, as Agnew wished. Emery calls that Nixon's "worst tactical mistake," because Congress "might not have had the stomach for another impeachment"—Nixon's—the following year.

**Staffing the JFK Review Board**—Three months after its five members were sworn in, the JFK Assassination Records Review Board hired an expert archivist, David

Marwell, as its \$106,800-a-year executive director. Since 1988, Marwell has been the director of the Berlin Document Center, the Allies' archive of Nazi documents. The Berlin files were turned over to the German government on July 1. Marwell, 42, earlier spent 10 years in the U.S. Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations.

To begin the panel's mission of extracting for public review all withheld government documents on the Kennedy assassination, board members said, Marwell will be joined in September by a staff in offices a block from the downtown Washington National Archives building. Until then, the review panel's mailing address remains: Assassination Records Review Board, Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 90740-6001.

**Wealth insurance**—Because health-care reform, if any, may mean higher premiums for some, even *Time* magazine thinks "it might be time for some of the big cats at the big carriers" to help reduce rates by taking pay cuts. The magazine's listing of the 1993 incomes of health insurance CEO's ranges from tops of \$52.8 million (The Travelers) and \$9.8 million (U.S. Healthcare) to a mere \$790,000 (Cigna.)

**The party's over**—Total voter turnout in the 1992 Presidential election was the largest since 1972, according to the Census Bureau. But the 22nd annual new voter registration drive among 18-year-old high school students in Montgomery County, MD—a wealthy, mostly Democratic suburb of Washington, DC—yielded an all-time high of "declines." Students registered 40 percent as Democrats, 29 percent as Republicans and 31 percent as "declines," or in effect as Independents—who are often non-voters on Election Day. It's a national trend.

**Corrections**—Several readers correctly detected from the context that a reference to Dr. Jonas Salk on page one of the May 15 *Washington Spectator* was intended to be a reference to Dr. Benjamin Spock. And in the July 1 issue, the Northern States Power Co. got typographically relocated as "Northern States Power Colorado." It's a Co., all right. But its not in CO. It's in MN.

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## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

## RIGHT/WRONG

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**Religious liberty**—To oppose “spiritual intimidation” by the Christian right, a new Protestant-Catholic-Jewish ecumenical church group called the Interfaith Alliance says it will oppose the use of “spiritual litmus tests” in the 1994 election campaign.

Arguing that the radical right, led by the Rev. Pat Robertson’s \$20-million-a-year Christian Coalition, claims to “uniquely speak for people of faith” and insists that “God is on their side,” the interfaith group hopes to raise \$4 million to say that there is “an alternative religious voice in America.” Only the Democrats have pledged so far, but both major political parties as well as individuals are being asked for support.

The chairman of the Interfaith Alliance is the Rev. Herbert Alexander, head of the Baltimore Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He says that right-wing fundamentalist groups like the Christian Coalition “pose a serious threat to American principles of tolerance and liberty.” For information, write the Interfaith Alliance, 1511 K Street NW, Room 738, Washington, DC 20005.

**That’s rehabilitation**—The Rev. Jim Bakker, the fundamentalist minister sent to jail for cheating his faithful of \$160 million, has served his time in contemplation. Now that he’s out, his lawyer tells the *Charlotte Observer* that Bakker’s future ministry “won’t be a right-wing Republican commitment. There will be a strong core of calling for justice and equality as part of the gospel. You’ll see a Bible-believing liberal Democrat.”

**Holes in polls**—It isn’t the only poll that’s been seriously subjected to scrutiny among the hundreds of confidently *now you know* opinion surveys published every year. But errors have been revealed in a 1992 Roper poll purporting to show that as many as 22 percent—one of every five Americans—believe that the Nazi Holocaust never happened. This result was so stunning that the Roper organization, conceding that it had distorted the phrasing of a question it asked in 1992, tried again.

Using a more straightforward question, a Roper rerun in

March found that a mere 1 percent of poll respondents believed the Holocaust had never happened, that 8 percent were “unsure” and that 91 percent were certain it did happen.

The revised survey question: “Does it seem possible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened, or do you feel certain it happened?” The 1992 question, with its double negative, was: “Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened?” To that question, Roper now says, “many may have given an answer just the opposite of what they meant.”

Critics of today’s live-by-the-polls mentality say that happens frequently.

**Have panel, will travel**—After the JFK Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) sets up shop in September with as many as 25 staffers under its new executive director, David Marwell (see FYI, Aug. 1), most of the public hearings held by the five-member board will be convened in D.C. But some will be scheduled around the country. Decisions to “reach out to groups that have information” and to extend the board’s work until at least October 1996 were made at its second public meeting in Washington on July 12. More later.

**Why banks like ATMs**—The automatic teller machines (ATMs) that offer bank customers drive-in and after-hours service not only save banks \$2.3 billion a year in human teller wage and paperwork costs, they also generate \$2.5 billion for the banks in customer user fees, according to the Consumer Federation of America. After deducting the banks’ ATM-equipment, installation and upkeep costs, the study estimates a national ATM profit of \$2 billion a year.

The consumer group recommends using only your own bank’s ATMs, most of which so far impose no user fee. The banks’ profit-making transaction charges, averaging 95 cents to \$1.10 per customer use, come when you use the so-called “off-us” ATMs of other banks.

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## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

### UNDER ATTACK

**The President Has Made Important Progress  
—But We’re Not Shown Much of It**

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Social programs \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
Adopt the O.J. assumptions \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
JL \_\_\_\_\_ 4

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