

# Nixon's News Summary Covers Papers, TV

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's most exclusive news publication is put together every day by a staff of five for one key reader: the President of the United States.

Titled simply "News Summary," it arrives at his desk at 8 a.m. each morning in a blue loose-leaf binder. If the President is out of town it reaches him by wire.

The summary, meaty but dry, contains the essence of news and commentary from nearly 50 daily newspapers, about as many magazines and journals, plus the major news services and the three major television networks.

A sample:  
 "2 US News pages on 'Biggest WH Banquet Ever' w 7

photos on the 'day of high patriotism—'like a breath of fresh air for scandal-ridden DC' and 'a much-needed lift for a beleaguered RN...'"

The item, from a May 28 summary, condenses a U.S. News & World Report story on the White House (WH) banquet for returning war prisoners. Well-known names, including Richard Nixon's, are in the form of initials.

The summary generally runs about 30 pages with the news these days divided into categories: Watergate, Indochina, Economy and so forth. In recent months Watergate has commanded most of the digest's space.

Patrick J. Buchanan, a White House speechwriter and former

editorial writer for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, began the summary when President Nixon took office and still supervises its production.

The main editing, however, is done by Lyndon (Mort) Allin, a 32-year-old former history teacher who says he has always been interested in the media.

A review of some summaries for the past year shows that the digests are indeed thorough and generally objective, if usually bone dry.

The same summary that contained the favorable U.S. News & World Report comment on the POW banquet, for example, also gave Time magazine's assessment that his "speech to the POWs carried RN's new

theme to illogical lengths...He was flirting with demagoguery...at an occasion of deep national appreciation used by RN for a self-serving purpose."

Allin and his staff of four scan about 30 newspapers each day page by page and an additional 15 or more for major news and editorial comment.

They also videotape all TV news shows, and keep a running summary throughout the day of the output of the main wires of The Associated Press and United Press International.

By 11 p.m. the summary is ready for final typing by the White House secretarial pool. It is then copied, stapled together and distributed.

"The summary is written for the President and originally

had a circulation of five," Allin said. "Gradually the list grew, and when it got to about 30 so many people saw it we began getting requests for more to be included. Now it goes to about 130 people."

Columns and interpretive stories that appear in the morning papers go into the following day's summary.

The only major papers left out of the summary are The Washington Post and The New York Times. Instead, both are shipped under the President's door each morning by his valet, Manolo Sanchez.

"If we summarized those two, it would not only make the summary twice as long but redundant," Buchanan said.