

major public-relations effort to lend the appearance of compliance to his willful act of non-compliance for which any American save a president could expect to go to jail/

There is no single answer, no simply explanation of "why" in this case. Indeed, there rarely is with sociopaths.

If this partial disclosure of the filth that Nixon dumped ~~inside~~ inside the sacred portals does nothing else it does make perfectly clear that he and his minions were and are sociopaths. Why do sociopaths do what they do?

The tough-minded, coldly calculating Nixon, did this unprecedented in this unprecedented manner because anything else he did or did not do was more hurtful to him.

It was his lesser evil.

He ruined many lives in the doing, as he had cannibalized throughout his political career. He knew he was doing it and tried to put a prettier face on it in announcing what he was about to do.

But the lives of those he ruined, those he defamed in perpetuity, are not those who in turn could ruin him.

There was and there went unnoted in the media an interesting twist to the date of his speech and publication. In effect he picked it.

It was ~~the~~ five days later than the time called for by the subpoena. He had asked the House to give him five more days in which to respond and it had granted the courtesy.

In those five days, as he knew and as was no secret, there would be an end to the trial of two of his former cabinet officers and his two chief re-election campaign functionaries. His former Attorney General, John Mitchell, and his former Secretary of Commerce, were being tried on charges of personal and political corruption in New York City. When Nixon asked for the five-day delay the case was ready for the jury, which returned its verdict of "not guilty" (in that case not identical with "innocent"), on a Sunday, April 28, just two days before Nixon's self-exposure.

So, the first and the obvious explanation of his seeking the delay is not because he needed more time, the one he gave, but to keep the seamiest revelations about the crookedness and the obstructions of justice and the bribery that could have influence and smother