

"Ehrlichman To Change Attorneys" WxPost 3/31/74 (Lardner) *filed Ehrlichman*

Missing in the story, evaluation and opinions is what Wilson said when the obvious question of conflict of interest was raised at the Ervin hearings. He said there was none.

Missing also is any real evaluation of why it is apparent now and was not then, if this is the case, and reasonable conjecture if it means

change in

Ehrlichman's position, attitude, strategy - even plans (to degree suggested)

Haldeman's plans

interrelationships

It appears to have caught Wilson by surprise.

One of the possibilities is that Ehrlichman is taking the plunge, copping a plea. He is the most Nazi of these Nazis and the one of those at the top least likely to persevere in unselfishness. Because of the open-and-shut Ellsberg rap he is also more vulnerable than Haldeman. (This also means that with the same lawyer some of his extra guilt can rub off on "aldeman.)

It can represent a reading that Nixon will be impeached, whether or not the Senate votes it; and if this happens before the trial (decision fairly certain to be before then), some of the anti-Nixon reaction will taint Ehrlichman's chances in trial.

As recently as last month Wilson saw no conflict.

Now the report is that Ultrareactionary Ehrlichman is switching from Ultrareactionary Wilson to alleged "liberal" Bail. This also can be taken as a reading, of more than the difference of the impacts on the jury.

The one-count deal offered by Jaworski was exceptionally generous. That Ehrlichman did not accept it can't be because he expects to do better in court.

Rejection is attributed to prosecutorial refusal to include Haldeman in the package, not to the testimony (confessions?) demanded.

If this is valid and if there is no reason to believe a deal is now to be offered to Haldeman, is it not a reasonable presumption that one of the possibilities is that Ehrlichman, recognizing a good thing when he sees it, also recognizes the wisdom of rats who realize the ship is sinking?

And was there not a conflict of interest on Wilson's part when this offer was made a rejected if because his other client was not included?

The can be one of the more significant of recent developments.

Ehrlichman is one of the hardest-headed of hardheads.

"Ford Blames 'Elite Guard' For GOP Ills" WxPost 3/31/74 (Cannon) *filed Ford*

Missing in this (properly) lead story is what was on last night's TV net news, the speech was written en route by Ford and his staff. This adds to the anti-Nixon nature of the speech and its reception.

I think this development means more than that Ford is disassociating himself as much as possible from Nixon and that the party pros are, too. I think it means that both recognize their future is jeopardized by his survival, have decided to heed their, not his needs, and are prepared to abandon him to whatever fate impends if not one they anticipate.

There are many developments with which this sharp shift can be said to coincide and by which it can be said to be influenced. Of them all I believe the one that may be most "operative" is the political impossibility of any GOP in Congress in particular but running for office anywhere to pretend that he does not know that Nixon is stalling deliberately and being expedient rather than principled. St. Clair as the lawyer may regard this as essential to his client's interest, but in following his client's legal interest he was not able to hide his strategy. It has to be interpreted as recognition of guilt and with little doubt of criminal guilt. (Note that "ansfield also said he would oppose any deal that would immunize Nixon from crimes, for first time this past week.)