

Nixon Uher Alles, or more on how the tapes were erased HW 4/9/74

Je's memos of 3/27 and 3/28/74 note developments of the key period that are relevant and can be the key.

By now you have the pieces that I think explain the 6/20/72 puzzle, how everything taped that day just doesn't exist anymore and why Nixon left a phone that was automatically connected to his taping system and phoned Mitchell on one that was not. As I recall 6/20, the main tape is gone on all relevant meetings and conversations, there was this call not recorded, and there were sinister forces at work on both a cassette and a dictabelt. Haldeman knew he had made notes about that day but appears to have been uneasy about them so he had Higby read them to him over the phone. After hearing them he had no concern, saying something to the effect that they were O.K., sort of in the sense not to be worried about. Thus these notes were not destroyed and are in evidence and say no more than that there was a p.r. job to be done.

The period of 3/19/73 seems to be significant because it is the time of the McCord letter and the buying off of Hunt. It is the date McCord's letter is dated. However, this letter was handled by a federal employee, McCord's parole officer. While the letter was not read in court until 3/23, on 3/21 the judge had it.

What could be expected of McCord was so well known that specific knowledge of the content of his letter need not have been. This is not to say that it was not known. It is to say that it doesn't make that much difference. Aside from his clear record, amply confirmed in testimony, there seems little doubt he had discussed this with others all of whom could have gotten it to GL.

There were WH meetings 3/21/73 and again sinister forces on the tapes. Again the inevitable discussions that were obstructions of justice.

Je's chronology notes point to possible timing significance in alterations in this one of all tape recorders, Rose Mary's Uher. The modification was made 11/9/73.

There appears to be no reasonable doubt that the tapes were not listened to earlier, at least once Butterfield testified to their existence. Haldeman testified to auditioning a series of them and there were not then erased. And there is no way any machine can have a gap followed by words in mid-sentence without the conscious act of the operator, so there was deliberate erasure of the dictabelt of 3/21 or GL let it run for 57 seconds and then just turned it on, which not only makes no sense at all but should be detectable on technical examination.

Just prior to the fixing of the Uher so it could not record there was the Florida weekend of 11/1/73, that is GL's great haste in which he left everyone behind.

I wonder if this is the weekend testified to, where Rose Mary worked on those tapes and Bull handled them? There is such testimony about a Florida weekend.

She and Haldeman both testified 11/8/73. Haldeman also 11/9. (This is the day he said the report from Higby was "There's no problem for the President.")

The tapes having been altered and testimony about them being taken, what better time for "explaining" that Rose Mary and those who used her machine could not have committed crimes than by fixing the machine not to record? Why fix this one machine, the newest, when there were others kicking around and as it later turned out, in stock and storage? If the purpose was to prevent erasure in listening, why not instead just use a playback machine, not a recorder? But if this was the reason and because it was inevitable that at other tapes other tapes would have to be heard and the presumed danger would always exist, once the machine was fixed not to record, why alter it again so it could record? This kind of explanation seems impossible to credit.

Then there is the consistency. Each crucial time there are sinister forces. Another is the absence of the crucial tape of that Sunday meeting GL had with Dean after Dean phoned 4/15/73. (Dean's memo printed in Ervin hearings.) That was the easiest one to memory hole. All the tapes beginning at a certain period do not exist and it is explained that there was this automatic system that wasn't automatic, all those Secret Service agents and none doing this job that day.

Once Rose Mary testified 11/8 without mentioning gap of 3/21 and Haldeman testified to hearing what existed before RM auditioned, there was the problem of making it seem that RM could not have erased. Altering machine one way the worried could have conceived, and the timing is a remarkable coincidence if no more.