

Agnew-Nixon deal?

HW 10/17/73

Today's Jack Anderson column says that Nixon "was aware of Agnew's difficulties before the inauguration." It also says that, in the words of "one source" that "If this had come up earlier "Mitchell would have called Beall off.

I think this was all a Nixon caper, feeding this stuff to Anderson to pull the teeth of the truth.

It follows last week's information to CBS from the prosecutor's office, that they had started their investigation by the time of WG and had immediately run into Agnew stuff. This did not come out until after Agnew copped his plea, or Nixon's.

The Anderson formulation is a rewording of the non-secret, that by January Beall knew.

This hides two facts: that he had to have known before then, long before, and that if he did, Nixon also did.

What this really means is that Nixon knew before the election, if not before the convention, which I think not unlikely.

In turn, this means that the Nixon who knew well enough all the WG details and what they could do to him deliberately chose a very vulnerable Agnew as his running-mate. He would not have done this without feeling the urgent need for a very vulnerable vice president.

He to use in his own defense against his own acts and what they should have brought about.

The Anderson column says that while Nixon knew before Agnew told him, he also knew too late to have a different running mate. That has to be false and has to be a Nixonian self-protection device.

It is true that Agnew's prosecution and defense were both Nixon's lawyers. It is more true that Anderson says because the "constitutional" expert on the Agnew defense was also of Colson's firm. His name is Kaufman.

Seemingly, from his Monday night speech, Agnew hasn't the slightest idea what happened to him. Nixon, although they have barely talked for years, is still the greatest and the best for the country -after all of this.

Agnew can't be that stupid. Can he?