

F Post  
5-13-74

# Anderson Scoops

## The Scoopers

The United Features Syndicate reports that "For Watergate Breaks, You Can't Scoop Jack Anderson," whose column appears in the News-Post.

As a Watergate - ruined Richard Nixon approaches high noon, one reporter more than any other has brought the President to his present predicament.

Columnist Jack Anderson has uncovered more White House scandals than anyone who has shoveled the compost pile at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

To mention a few, he wrote the first stories about Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt's extortion, the bribe payments to Watergate defendants, billionaire Howard Hughes' \$100,000 cash gift to the President, the ITT scandal, the squandering of the taxpayers' money on Nixon's private estates and full details behind the alleged \$10,000 dairy lobby payment to former Treasury Secretary John Connally.

Anderson was also the first to write about the strange association of the President's family with fugitive financier Robert Vesco. The Washington Star-News later revealed Vesco had contributed \$200,000 in cash to the Nixon campaign.

A Providence, R.I., reporter named Jack White dug out the fact that the President paid an income tax of only \$792.81 in 1970 and \$878.03 in 1971. But Anderson was the first national writer to confirm the figures and to report additional details about the President's controversial tax breaks.

Anderson also wrote that the President personally had checked over his 1970 return, page by page, before signing it. The details revealed by Anderson were later confirmed by a joint congressional investigation.

An Anderson column on Donald Segretti's political sabotage operations in the Florida presidential primary led to the conviction and imprisonment of the President's dirty tricks specialist. U.S. Attorney John Briggs, who prosecuted the case, acknowledged that he learned about it from reading Jack Anderson's column.

Anderson was also the first to tie former Attorney General John Mitchell to the Watergate burglary - bugging operation. Anderson revealed that copies of

the bugging reports had gone to Mitchell. The code name for the reports, Anderson revealed, was "Gemstone."

"The first time I ever heard of Gemstone," Mitchell told Senate investigators, "was in Jack Anderson's column." But a grand jury, disbelieving Mitchell, indicted him.

Theodore H. White, the chronicler of the Nixon campaigns, has described Anderson as "an unguided missile with multiple warheads

likely to strike anywhere."

Yet Anderson has also broken stories favorable to President Nixon. As far back as March 29, 1973, for example, Anderson was the first to report categorically: "Our own White House sources says the President certainly did not authorize anyone to send a burglary - bugging team into the Democratic lair." This has now been confirmed by the White House transcripts.

Unlike other investigative reporters, Anderson doesn't rely heavily on the findings of federal and Senate investigators for stories. On the contrary, FBI agents, special prosecutors and Senate investigators often come to Anderson for information.

Anderson was holed up in a nearby room, for example, when the Watergate burglars were offered hush money to plead guilty and avoid the embarrassment of a public trial. By arrangement, one of the Cubans slipped out of the secret meeting and reported to Anderson what was happening.

This enabled Anderson to report on Jan. 15, 1973, that the Cubans, in exchange for guilty pleas, were offered "regular payments to the defendants' families. A \$1,000 - a - month figure was mentioned. Our sources could not, or would not, identify the men behind the scenes. We can report only that most of the money for the defendants were funneled through Hunt."

Four days earlier, Anderson

reported that "some of the defendants in the Watergate trial are sending quiet signals to the Nixon administration that they may start talking before they'll go to prison." He mentioned Hunt by name and subsequently told about a threatening, three-page letter Hunt had written to get money out of the White House.

Not only was Anderson ahead of the Watergate prosecutors in uncovering this extortion and bribery, but the President has claimed he didn't learn about until two months later.

Another Anderson investigation, which resulted in a column on August 6, 1971, charging that billionaire Howard Hughes had siphoned \$100,000 from his Nevada gambling operations for Nixon, was picked up by the Watergate prosecutors and Senate investigators two years later.

Anderson's report that the \$100,000 was delivered by Richard Danner, a Hughes

executive, to Bebe Rebozo, the President's confidant, has now been confirmed.

Anderson's sources also told him that Rebozo had distributed the money to the President's secretary, Rose Mary Woods, and his brothers, Donald and Edward. Unable to document this, Anderson passed on the information to Senate investigators who had the power to subpoena witnesses.

Anderson told them what witnesses to call and provided them with written questions to

ask. This produced the testimony of Herbert Kalmbach, the President's attorney, about the distribution of \$100,000 to Rose Mary Woods and the Nixon brothers.

In September 1972, Anderson assigned his reporter, Brit Hume, to investigate the use of the taxpayers' money to renovate President Nixon's seaside home in San Clemente, Calif. Hume's inquiries touched off an alarm inside the General Services Administration, which supervised the San Clemente

project.

After Hume's questioning of construction engineer William Robinson, an urgent, confidential memo dated Sept. 28, 1972, was sent to GSA headquarters. "It was apparent from the conversation," warned the memo, "that Mr. Hume was aware of all the contracts, scope of work, dollar amounts and contract numbers for all the work which was done by Bill...Mr. Hume said it appeared there was something fishy going on and said he would like to see the records.