

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

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" Ball. 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.