

19 Aug 73

Have already sent you a copy of story in NYTimes 28 Jul 73 by Douglas E. Kneeland, "Ehrlichman notes indicate plan to limit Hunt impact." Here are a couple of paragraphs from another piece, "Ehrlichman says he briefed Nixon on plot April 14," by James M. Naughton, NYTimes 28 Jul 73; this one seems to refer to the same Ehrlichman memo mentioned by Kneeland, and this one gives the date.

"Moreover, the scribbled notes by Mr. Ehrlichman, which he explained in part today [27 Jul], contained a strong suggestion that concern over the Federal grand jury testimony of E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate conspirator, had prompted Mr. Nixon's April 17 announcement of 'serious' new charges in the Watergate case. The Senate committee did not explore this suggestion.

"Mr. Ehrlichman confirmed to a reporter that his notes on an April 15 interview with Charles W. Colson, a former White House special counsel, reflected a recommendation by Mr. Colson that Mr. Nixon should publicly disclose 'damaging evidence' so that a pending grand jury appearance by Hunt would be an 'anti-' [Line ends here, followed by new paragraph. Kneeland gives the line as "3 - Then HH anti-climax on Mon" This memo is reproduced by WXPost 28 Jul 73, p. 13; does not include date.]

If the date of the memo is 15 Apr, Monday would have been 16 Apr 73. Hunt testified 2 May, Watergate grand jury; 6 Jun, Los Angeles grand jury; 11 Jun, closed-door session, Senate Watergate committee; 28 Jun, closed-door session, House Armed Services subcommittee. Perhaps Hunt was to talk to the prosecutors "Mon"?

Later

After a little more checking, find that 15 Apr is the date Silbert says he learned that Hunt and Liddy were involved in break-in of Dr. Fielding's office. (Memo from Silbert to Petersen, 16 Apr 73.) This was also the date Ehrlichman twice called Gray in the evening from Nixon's office, to tell him Dean had been talking to the prosecutors and had told them Hunt files had been turned over to Gray.