

9/13/74, ABC News, report by David Shoemaker, re Haldeman pardon plan. He must have had authoritative sources, and they showed a copy of Hald's typed plan, with his initials typed at the bottom. The White House knew Haldeman had been working on a pardon plan, including possible pardons for all WG defendants, maybe even for draft evaders, and possible disbanding of Special prosecutors office, arguing that unless "all prosecution" was ended once and for all, there "was the chance of new things being opened up." Nixon asked for Haldeman's 18point plan only hours before he resigned, creating hope in the Hald camp that a pardon would be granted in the resignation speech.

Shoemaker's report said there was nothing to indicate, as the Post had, that this was a blackmail threat. Quite the contrary, I think. What did he mean by "new things" that could be opened up? If he knew about them, couldn't he help the prosecutors open them up?

Not mentioned, but apparent to me is the similarity between the H plan to pardon draft evaders along with WG defendants, and the ultimate Ford doublecross. I thought right away that Ford made his amnesty appeal in the hopes of justifying and making acceptable what he doubtlessly knew was coming, the Nixon pardon.

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