

WG indictments, second round beginning 3/1/74 HW 3/9/74

The papers have not yet caught onto the Nixon subtletiest which would not be subtler and in fact are not save for the fact that they are ignored and are made to appear to be cleverer than they are.

He lets little things out each time he talks. His last concern is being seen as a liar, so this presents no problem. In his 3/6 press conference he admitted what he had earlier denied with some specificity, that he had been told of hush-money payments 3/21/73. Well, while that didn't get the attention it should have, it got some. That and the other attention getters in this appearance obscured what is also there, the basis for claims of prejudicial pre-trial publicity. Nixon answers what he wants to answer and as all people in his or similar positions have, embellishes the answer to include what he wants to say that is not responsive to the question. The format enables him to say almost anything he wants about almost anything.

Here he had the best of prime time, his selection, just after the end of the last of the net news shows while he had all the news audiences, and he picked that time to add the entirely unnecessary, that of course, hush money was obstructing justice.

Now his former honchos had just been charged with this crime and in the manner he described as obstructing justice.

With the arrogant old fascist bastard Wilson representing then, it seems unlikely that he will not use this as a defense.

I would not be unwilling to consider that this is one of the many schemes they have cooked up among themselves to be used in exculpation. Withholding tapes is another.

Meanwhile, Nixon served his own purposes. He has thus let it slip out that he was aware of illegalities in obstructing justice, etc., and can later cite this. This particular time is close enough to the point where he had no choice but to pretend to do something that the interval, the delay, is not likely to hold up if used as a charge against him, like misprison of a felony, etc.

But, he has also again diverted all attention from the unquestionable reality, that his first knowledge (at least) of these obstructions of justice was not 3/21/73. It could not have been later than 6/20/72 but nobody talks about that, not even when all the tapes of that day have disappeared, by the alleged Mose Mary's Booboo and by other means.

(Ref: Gray Chapter book.)

Hunch: Nixon actually did that something like "That would be wrong." He is far from the country's most literate man. He seems to have an extraordinarily limited use vocabulary, in fact. He could well have said "that would be wrong" relative to clemency and not even about clemency itself but about the manner in which it was suggested and now be invoking this phrase to refer to everything that preceeded it.

Comment: if the media used what they would never have ignored against any earlier president, a blatant lie that follows, I did not see/hear it.

Nixon claimed he had turned over to Jaworski what Jaworski personally said was enough and thus even Jaworski certified to his full cooperation. Fact: there are outstanding subpoenas to which there has been no response and some of these predate even Jaworski. And even Jaworski has not said Nixon cooperated. In fact, he has said but little for attribution but in that little said the opposite.

Sirica: His silence on such comment after his order against it says enough.