

Article in the Nation, 27 Apr, copied and filed that date. (File titled Surveillance.)
See also SFChronicle, 15 Jun. Both in this file.

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WILL NIXON CANCEL

Rand Corporation reportedly

ART KUNKIN

It has been a week of political crime committed in the name of law and order.

First, there was the invasion of Cambodia, so gross an extension of the undeclared war in Southeast Asia, again without the required vote by Congress, that the President should be impeached and removed from office if the written laws of our land still have meaning.

Then we experienced the shock of having unarmed American college students gunned down without warning by morons in the uniform of the country, who were evidently frustrated because they had run out of tear gas to play with.

And then, after preparing to report on these crimes of government in this issue of The Free Press, our eyes were caught by the last line of a Front Page column of the Wall Street Journal for April 24th, "Nixon men find a rumor hard to spike — that the Rand Corporation 'think-tank' is studying the idea of cancelling the 1972 elections if radicals

threaten to disrupt it."

Some leg work and phone calls by two Free Press reporters turned up the facts that the Village Voice of April 17, the Nation magazine of April 27 and the April 5, 1970 issues of newspapers in Portland, Oregon and Staten Island, New York had also commented on this story and done research on it.

The story seems to have been first researched by a William Howard of the Washington Bureau of the very conservative Newhouse newspaper chain and published April 5 in a number of local newspapers. According to the Village Voice correspondent who interviewed Howard, he still insists that the sources for his story were "good" and he believes them despite formal denials from both Rand and the White House.

According to Howard, the White House ordered a feasibility study of the cancellation of the 1972 elections because Presidential advisers are "increasingly concerned about the country's in-

ternal security and the chances of radical elements disrupting governmental operations, including national elections."

The Rand study would "envision a situation where rebellious factions using force or bomb threats would make it unsafe to conduct an election, and to provide the President with a plan of action."

Independent L.A. Free Press interviews with persons close to the Rand Corporation of Santa Monica, California indicate that the White House has indeed ordered such a study and issued instructions that anyone connected with the project is not to discuss it. However, Howard, in speaking with the Village Voice writer, Ron Rosenbaum, has already revealed that some of his information came from the wife of a Rand Corporation executive.

On April 5, 1966, the L.A. Free Press bannered a story, "Will Johnson cancel the elections?" The story was published right after LBJ announced that he would not run for the presidency, the U.S. Post Office was finding vast amounts of illegal explosives in the mail from Vietnam to the black ghettos, and at the time of the publication of a book, "Our Next President," which speculated on the possibility of the 1968 elections being thrown into the House of Representatives for final decision and a dictatorship emerging.

Well, the 1966 elections were held. But they were held only after a series of political assassinations, including a former President, a leading presidential contender and several prominent black oppositional leaders. They were held after the police riots and political chicanery of the Chicago Democratic Convention.

Also:

- 27 Apr 70 - The Nation
- 15 Jun 70 - SF Chronicle
- 22 Jul 70 - NYTimes
- 22 Jul 70 - SFChronicle
- 30 Jul 70 - NYTimes
- Aug 70 - Scanlan's Magazine
(one page)
- 28 May 73 - SFChronicle
- 13 Jul 73 - WXPost

THE ELECTIONS ?

doing study for Nixon

the emergence of the CIA as the molder of American foreign policy, and the whitewash of the Warren Commission (which even ex President LBJ now admits did not tell everything to be known about the Kennedy assassination). The 1968 elections were held, in other words, under conditions which suggested that the mere 200 year history of American democracy was coming to an end.

You think Nixon CAN'T cancel the elections in 1972? Do you really believe that elections are

inevitable just because they've happened less than fifty times in American history? Read the headlines in your friendly conservative newspaper and see the monstrous and ruthless mode of operations of the man in the White House. Do you think he is beyond cancelling the elections for the sake of instituting a dictatorship and blaming it on the radicals, just as Hitler set the Reichstag fire and blamed the Communists, wrongly, as we know now? If there is any trace of this belief in you, dear reader, history is sure to judge you the fool!