

21 Mar 73 ①

McCord "delivers" letter to Judge Sirica, who refuses to accept it on the ground that he should have no direct dealings with a defendant. Letter is dated 19 Mar 73.

NYT 24 Mar 73

WP 24 Mar (text of letter)

Nixon (in announcement 17 April) says he began <sup>"intensive new inquiries"</sup> ~~investigation~~ 21 Mar, as a result of "serious charges which came to my attention." \*

NYT 18 Mar 73 (text of statement)

Hunt - ~~See~~ See first entry 21 Jun 73, on Hunt's threat and demand for money (no date). <sup>AMP-E</sup> Nixon knew of this; Mitchell was told of it, and when Ehrlichman asked Mitchell 21 or 22 Mar 73 whether the ~~problem had been taken care of~~ <sup>problem had been taken care of</sup>, Mitchell said "yes."

NYTimes 21 Jun 73 (summary of Dean testimony to Ervin Committee investigators)

\*The date of 21 Mar corrected by Nixon to 17 Mar (see entry for that date)

AMP - E

Nixon meets with Dean and Haldeman. See Dean and Haldeman on this meeting, and Haldeman <sup>the</sup> on tape made at this time.

Dean testimony, 25-29 Jun 73

Haldeman testimony, 30 Jul-1 Aug 73, and entry 31 Jul, p. 1, on Haldeman's ~~audit~~ <sup>audit</sup> monitoring of this tape

Nixon, Dean, Haldeman - meeting, Oval Office, 10:12 to 11:55 a.m. ~~Meeting~~ - Two meetings are listed for this date, this one and another - or a continuation of this one - with the same participants, joined by Ehrlichman and Ziegler. These two tapes are among the nine requested by Cox. <sup>AMP - B, D, I</sup>

See listing of these tapes, in memo filed separately. - Tape of this meeting was given to Haldeman 26 Apr, with 21 others. He says he listened to only this one, thought he had returned all 22 the same day; Secret Service logs show they were not returned until 2 May.

NYT 9 Nov 73, Weaver

AMP - A

②

21 Mar 73 (2)

Hunt (executive clemency or parole) - See entry 27 Mar 73.

Tape, 21 Mar - see entry 26 Apr 73, same heading.

Manyon M. Millican }  
LaRue } See AMP-E.  
Bittman }

See entry 4 Jun 73, Nixon calls Haldeman ... (on ways to "pre-empt" Dean's expected account of meeting with Nixon today).

See entry 25 Apr 73, Nixon tells Haldeman to review ....

(21 Mar 73) AMP ①

9 Nov 73

① - Higby testifies (at Sirica tape hearings) that in April he obtained tape of the meeting 21 Mar for Haldeman, who listened to it privately for about two hours; says Haldeman may have made some comment about the poor quality of the recording. "I asked him about the content of the tape and his reply was 'There's no problem for the President.'"

SFC 10 Nov 73 [UPI]

② - From abbreviated summary of what is believed to be the contents of the subpoenaed tapes: "March 21, 1973 - Dean, according to his own testimony, told [Nixon] in Haldeman's presence that there was a 'cancer growing on the presidency' and that massive perjury had been committed by White House staff members. The prosecutors would like to know [Nixon's] reaction."

~~WXP 24 Nov 73~~

"March 21, 1973 - Again, the sole topic of conversation was Watergate, and Dean has testified that it was clear to him that the alleged cover-up would continue. The tape is essential, according to the prosecutors, in determining whether there was a cover-up, and, if there was, who participated in it."

WXP 24 Nov 73

③ - Hunt met with Paul O'Brien (CREP lawyer) 12 or 13 Mar 73, demanding ~~\$60,000 in legal~~ money - \$60,000 for legal fees, \$72,000\* and insisted he must have this money by 21 Mar. "Hunt noted that Watergate was not the only seamy activity he had been involved in and implied that if questioned about other activities he may have to reveal them." Hunt made the same threat 16 Mar 73 to Shapiro (first name not given), Colson's counsel: "Hunt again pointed out that he had been involved in many other seamy operations for the White House and that he would soon be appearing before the grand jury to whom he might have to reveal that information."

Witness summary on Hunt, p. 24

- See also Dean testimony on meeting of 20 Mar 73, on meeting with Dick Moore, at which he told Moore of having received message from Hunt - through Paul O'Brien - demanding money (substantially as in preceding paragraph). Dean does not give ~~precise~~ date he received this threat,

\*for living expenses for two years

AMP - F  
CONT'D

(21 Mar 73) AMP, (2)

[from preceding page]

but it would have to be between 12/13 Mar and 20 Mar 73. \*

Dean testimony, H3, 997, meetings of March 20

25 Jun 73

- From McCord testimony: "Hunt stated to me on more than one occasion in the latter part of 1972, that he, Hunt, had information in his possession which 'would be sufficient to impeach the President.' In addition, Mrs. E. Howard Hunt, on or about November 30, 1972, in a personal conversation with me, stated that E. Howard Hunt's attorney, William O. Bittman, had read to Kenneth Parkinson, the attorney for the Committee To Re-Elect the President, in which letter, Hunt purportedly 'to blow the White House out of the water.' Mrs. Hunt at this point in her conversation with me, also repeated the statement which she, too, had made before, which was that E. Howard Hunt had information which could impeach the President."

McCord testimony, opening statement, 22 May 73,

H1/196

\*Dean, in his testimony about meeting with Nixon, 13 Mar, says: "Toward the end of the conversation, we got into a discussion of Watergate matters specifically. I told the President about the fact that there were money demands being made by the seven convicted defendants, and that the sentencing of these individuals was not far off. .... He ... asked me who was demanding this money and I told him it was principally coming from Hunt through his attorney." There is no mention, in Dean's account of this meeting of 13 Mar, of Hunt's threat to tell of "seamy activity," but he does say it was at this meeting that Nixon "referred to the fact that Hunt had been promised executive clemency." On 20 Mar, in his conversation with Dick Moore, after telling Moore of having received Hunt's threat through O'Brien, he says he is "now in a position to deal with the President to end the cover-up."

Dean testimony, 25 Jun 73, H3, 995,  
meeting of 13 Mar 73

AMP (3)

For McCord's testimony on this to grand jury,  
see SFC/WKP 17 Apr 73.

(21 Mar 73) AMP, ③

WH events of  
① - /Cassette of Nixon recollections of this date, presumably including Nixon-Dean meeting, has 57-second blank space, followed by Nixon on another subject, beginning in mid-sentence.

See entry 18 Jan, Nixon recordings, new gaps ...

② - "The special Watergate prosecutors' evidence that the final Watergate coverup 'hush money' payment was made\* on the evening of March 21, 1973, about 12 hours after President Nixon has claimed he expressed disapproval of the payment scheme, has been revealed by informed sources. In recent interviews, Mr. Nixon's lawyers have disputed the date of the \$75,000 payment because, according to several informed sources, its authorization and delivery on March 21, coupled with the tape-recorded White House meeting on the subject earlier that day, could be used as evidence that Mr. Nixon was part of the coverup conspiracy." AMP - H

Story says the date has been firmly established (see clipping for details) and that the money was delivered to Bittman at his house in the Maryland suburbs (by inference, that evening). Story also mentions LaRue and Manyan M. Millican, who delivered the money.

SFC 15 Mar 74 - From WXP, Woodward and Bernstein, a much fuller story.

\*about 10 p.m.

- "Bittman was sure that he then received the envelope [containing \$75,000, mostly in \$100 bills] at his home some time after March 16 but before March 23, when a letter from ... McCord to ... Sirica was made public. In that letter, McCord disclosed that the conspirators had been paid money in return for their silence."\*\*

WXP 15 Mar 74, Woodward and Bernstein

\*\* (Cannot find any mention of payment of money in McCord's letter; text, WXP 24 Mar 73.)

③ - "O'Brien could not remember the exact date. He was questioned and remembered that it was after his birthday, which was March 15. [He] said he received the request [for money] at a meeting in the office of Hunt's attorney, Bittman. Bittman's records showed that Hunt and O'Brien

AMP - 4

(21 Mar 73) AMP (4)

[cont'd from previous page]  
had met in his office to discuss the request on March 16."  
WXP 15 Mar 74, Woodward and Bernstein

(G) - Lawrence Meyer, after saying, "The March 21, 1973, meeting occurred in a time of turmoil for the White House," and listing some of the events taking place then, goes on to say: "Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica was scheduled to sentence the seven original Watergate burglary conspirators on March 23. The seven men, who had been receiving secret Nixon re-election campaign cash, had up to that time maintained a stoic silence about their role in the Watergate affair. As soon as Sirica pronounced sentence on them, however, the way would be clear legally for the prosecutors to bring the seven men before the federal grand jury and compel their testimony about where their orders had come from and why the break-in was conducted."

WXP 15 Mar 74, Lawrence Meyer

(H) - LaRue tells "a Federal grand jury" 13 Feb 74 that he was informed early on the day of payment to Hunt (21 Mar 73), by Dean, that Hunt was demanding \$60,000 in attorney's fees and \$70,000 for living expenses. "According to accounts of Mr. LaRue's grand jury testimony," he says Dean conveyed "a sense of urgency" about the demands but refused to authorize the payment, suggesting that LaRue consult with Mitchell.

~~LaRue tells the grand jury that at mid-day, 21 Mar~~

Following the meeting today among Nixon, Haldeman and Dean, 10:12 to 11:55 a.m. (see entry), there is "a discussion" between Haldeman and Mitchell. Story does not give the time of this discussion, nor does it say whether it was by phone or face-to-face.

LaRue tells the grand jury that a mid-day today he discussed Hunt's demands with Mitchell and that Mitchell approved the payment.

"Mr. St. Clair has sought, on behalf of the President, to show that the \$75,000 payment was initiated before Mr. Dean told Mr. Nixon of the money demands on March 21."

NYT 9 Jul 74, p. 26, James M. Naughton

(21 Mar 73) AMP (5)

① - See entry 25 Apr 73, Nixon tells Haldeman ....  
(Nixon is worried Dean might have had a hidden tape recorder  
with him during their conversation today).

See entry 4 Jun 73, Nixon calls Haldeman (on ways to  
"pre-empt" Dean's expected account of meeting today).