

27 Apr 73 ①

~~Gray resigns; Nixon appoints Wt Ruckelhaus as acting FBI~~
SFC 28 Apr 73 ~~below~~ * director.

Nixon cancels scheduled meeting with economic advisers,
leaves on short notice ^{TOMORROW} for Camp David, taking no staff
SFC 28 Apr 73 members. *

Judge Matt Byrne (Pentagon Papers trial) makes public memo offered him in camera by prosecutor, David Nissen, which Byrne had refused to accept under those conditions. Memo is from Silbert to Petersen, dated 16 Apr 73, saying that on 15 Apr 73 ~~had~~ had received information that Hunt and Liddy had burglarized office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist to obtain files on Ellsberg. No explanation why memo was not turned over to Byrne until 27 Apr.

SFC 28 Apr 73 [LATimes Svc]

Ehrlichman gives statement to FBI, ~~states~~ says he had no prior knowledge of burglary of Dr. Fielding's office.

NYT 14 Jun 73, p. 42

(no date)

Dean, "according to several reliable sources," told Nixon 20 Mar 73 that Haldeman and Ehrlichman ~~toixha~~ instructed him after 17 Jun 72 never to discuss the bugging with Nixon and that they would transmit anything he wanted to tell Nixon.

SFC [WXP, ~~Wood~~ Bernstein and Woodward] 27 Apr 73

* Gray decides he must resign as acting director of FBI, at noon informs assistant directors of his decision, calls Higby/ to tell him he is sending over letter of resignation; Higby consults presidential party then in Mississippi, calls Gray to tell him to send his letter to the White House.

WXP 7 Aug 73, Gray testimony AMP-F

Nixon flies to Meridian, Miss., to dedicate new military installation, after ten-minute speech flies back to Washington; Haldeman and Ehrlichman very publicly with him.

SFC 28 Apr 73, AP and UPI

* White House says Haldeman and Ehrlichman did not go with Nixon, that he was accompanied only by military aide and SS agents. - SFC 28 Apr 73. AMP-A ②

27 Apr 73 (2)

Hunt in 1971 discussed with Robert F. Bennett (Robert R. Mullen Co.) the possibility of breaking into the safe of a Las Vegas publisher in search of papers which might be damaging to Sen. Muskie, Bennett tells NYTimes. Date of statement by Bennett to the Times is not given, but story also refers to a sworn deposition by Bennett made "last week," in connection with Democratic party damage suit.

NYT 28 Apr 73, Ripley

Hunt - NYTimes obtains text of one of the documents "in Hunt's possession during the late summer of 1971 ... which purported to be a State Department teletype message to [Henry Cabot] Lodge on Oct. 29, 1963," in the form of an instruction to Lodge that Diem should not be given political asylum once he was deposed. "It was not known whether the document ... was authentic or not ... or whether it was among the papers destroyed by Mr. Gray."

Source of the text is William G. Lambert, former investigative reporter for Life magazine. Text of document is given in story.

"At a news conference on Sept. 20, 1971, President Nixon said in answer to a question, '... I would remind all concerned that the way we got into Vietnam was through overthrowing Diem and the complicity in the murder of Diem ...' Mr. Nixon made the remark after the time Mr. Lambert said he had first seen the documents in question."

NYT 28 Apr 73, Crewdson; WXP 28 Apr 73, Stern
See also entry, Gray, 26 Apr 73

Butterfield to be questioned by special prosecutor's staff this evening, according to Petersen, speaking to Nixon.

NYT 4 May 74, p. 22 - transcript of WH tape,
27 Apr 73 (Nixon, Petersen,
Ziegler)

25th Amendment? - Nixon, speaking to Petersen today: "I sometimes feel like I'd like to resign. Let Agnew be President for a while."

NYT 4 May 74, p. 22, col. 4 - transcript of meeting
27 Apr 73 (Nixon,
Petersen, Ziegler) (3)

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Resignation - See entry, 25th Amendment?

Germany, 1933 - From report on intv with Robert Payne, whose book, "The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler," has just been published: "Payne ... said high-level corruption, economic disruption and the apathy of the masses to politics were keys to Hitler's rise to power in Germany. [He] said he sees distinct signs of a similar drift in the United States. 'The Watergate situation is one of the indications. It is absolutely frightening. The atmosphere here and now is very much the atmosphere of Germany in 1933.'"

SFEx 27 Apr 73, Jerry Belcher

AMP - B, C,
D, E

Gray (FBI) - From story on reaction of rank and file at FBI to news of Gray's resignation: "Generally, agents and officials of the F.B.I. were angry at reports in the morning papers that Mr. Gray had destroyed documents taken from a figure in the Watergate case, then they were relieved by the news at midday of his resignation. On the day of his departure, it was hard to find anyone with a charitable word for Mr. Gray. One of the chief charges made against Mr. Gray in the bureau during his year's tenure as Acting Director was that he was more concerned with his personal and political advancement than with the efficiency and morale of the agency."

NYT 28 Apr 73, Warren Weaver

Nixon Administration, comparison with Nazi Germany - See entry, Germany, 1933.

