

Witnesses: James W. McCord Jr. (2)
John Caulfield

22 May 73 ①

Nixon issues statement on various domestic intelligence plans (wiretaps, 1969; Huston's intelligence plan, 23-28 Jul 70; Intelligence Evaluation Committee, Dec. 70; Special Investigations Unit [plumbers], Jun 71.)

Text of Huston plan obtained by NYT and printed 7 Jun 73.
NYT 23 May 73

OVER-A
-B
-C
-D
E

Haldeman gives deposition in Democrats' civil suit; testifies also on 24 May. (See entries for 20 Mar, 15 Apr.)
Excerpts, NYT 8 Jun 73, p. 18

Ehrlichman gives deposition in Democrats' civil suit; continues 23 May.
NYT 6 Jun 73

Executive privilege - At the end of statement by Nixon on domestic intelligence plans (see above) he says, "Executive privilege will not be invoked as to any testimony concerning possible criminal conduct or discussions of possible criminal conduct, including the Watergate affair and the alleged coverup."

Lydon: "President Nixon abandoned today his once adamant insistence that 'executive privilege' should keep his personal staff from having to testify before Congress about the Watergate scandal. A single sentence near the end of his long statement today [paragraph above] means that Mr. Nixon's present and former aides will not be able to refuse to appear and answer questions in the Senate Watergate hearings on the ground that White House communications have an inherent Presidential privacy. Only weeks ago, President Nixon saw executive privilege as a virtually absolute power to deny White House information and staff to Congress."

NYT 23 May 73, Christopher Lydon

Mrs. Nixon "seems to be weathering the Watergate storm well. But there was a period when she was so tense that former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower expressed concern to mutual friends . . ." (Complete.)

WXP 22 May 73, Maxine Cheshire

- Nixon discussed with family the idea of resigning 4 May; see entry.

(A) - By rough count, the term "national security" is used 26 times, "domestic/internal security" 3 times, "security" ~~in other combinations~~ 9 times; "security" in other combinations such as "security leaks" not counted. Total, 38 times in 4,000 statement.

Variations of "I did not know" used 14 times.

Filed with SFC text of Nixon statement, 23 May 73

(B) - "Events indicate that many of Huston's recommendations were carried out: The essence survived without its label. On June 27th, 1973, John Dean told the Ervin Committee he had never seen any document to indicate the president had disapproved or rescinded the Huston Plan. On July 9th, 1973, Huston told a closed House Armed Services intelligence subcommittee hearing, the plan was never formally cancelled." At least 100 break-ins, apparently political in nature, occurred during the Nixon administration." From article by Robert Fink, "The Unsolved Break-Ins, 1970-1974."

Rolling Stone, 10 Oct 74 - filed 20 Sep 74.

- See entry 10 Oct 74, The unsolved break-ins

(C) - "The Nixon administration claimed that the so-called Huston Plan was never implemented, but the same organizations - the FBI, the CIA, NSA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Secret Service and the White House - met weekly for two years afterwards under the Intelligence Evaluation Committee, a group launched by Robert Mardian when he was assistant attorney general for internal security."

WXP 2 Feb 75, William Greider - filed Surv

22 May 73, p. 1, cont'd

(D) - "Senate investigators say they have uncovered extraordinary steps taken by the Justice Department to hide existence of an inter-agency security panel set up by President Nixon in December, 1970. These include the listing of the agency chief [Bernard Wells] under an entirely different title [chief of the non-classified Inter-Departmental Information Unit] and division within the Justice Department. According to the investigators, the order to 'hide' the existence of the agency was given by Robert C. Mardian Mr. Mardian has been identified in news reports as the Justice Department's liaison officer with the White House 'plumbers' group which was set up in June, 1971. " Unnamed Justice Department spokesman "questioned" the assertion that the order came from Mardian, saying "Mardian didn't give orders like that. The Attorney General [Mitchell; probably concurred in the fact that this be held secret." Same official did confirm the misleading listing.

Baltimore Sun 26 May 73, Lewthwaite

- See article by Douglas Watson, WXPost 3 Mar 75.

(E) - "The present C.I.A. chief, William E. Colby, said in January [75] that the agency conducted domestic intelligence gathering from 1970 until 1973 as an outgrowth of Presidential concern over radical activities. This concern was expressed in the so-called Huston plan.... The C.I.A., Mr. Colby has said, continued to gather information and maintain files on Americans even though the plan was not adopted."

NYT 6 May 75, Nicholas M. Horrock, filed CIA (d)

22 May 73 ②

Nixon "grand tour" - "President Nixon's hopes for a European summit conference this fall got a polite brushoff [today] from President Georges Pompidou and British Prime Minister Edward Heath at the conclusion of a two-day Anglo-French meeting [in Paris]. Without rejecting a summit in so many words, the two heads of government agreed that there were many substantive matters to be discussed with the United States before the possibility of a summit could be taken up."

SFC 23 May 73 [LATimes Svc] - filed Nix Ad
- See entry 15 Apr 73, Nixon "grand tour;" entry 25 Apr 73, "Japanese Have No Plans "