

Witness: John Ehrlichman (3)

26 Jul 73 (c)

Nixon refuses to comply with subpoenas; Judge Sirica immediately orders him to explain by 7 Aug why he should not be compelled to release the tapes to Cox. Ervin committee votes quickly and unanimously in open session to go to court next week to get the tapes; will ask for declaratory judgment.

SFC [NYT] 27 Jul 73 See entry, <sup>27 Jul</sup> Nixon refusal ...

Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Ewight Eisenhower ~~in~~ at very public lunch, ~~in the Senate dining room~~ at table in very center of Senate dining room; hostess, Mrs. Herman Talmadge, and one of the guests Mrs. Everett Dirksen, Baker's mother-in-law. First time wife of incumbent President had been invited there.

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Ehrlichman, during recess in Ervin hearings, talks with reporters for the first time during the hearings, laughing, joking.

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Charles Alan Wright (Nixon lawyer) says at news briefing: "It is very difficult to make any claim of privilege for material that is no longer confidential. I don't rule out the possibility that there will be some cases in which it could happen, but I can't offhand think of an example of a nonconfidential document as to which you have a Constitutional privilege."

~~See entry for~~ <sup>WH tapes</sup> ~~See entry for~~ 31 Jul 73  
SFC [NYT] 31 1 Aug 73

Ehrlichman, in testimony before Ervin committee, says WH intelligence unit in 1971 undertook a mission so important to national security that Nixon was justified in trying to hide group's existence; plan was not "inherently" related to Watergate conspiracy. Ehrlichman and Wilson say they are under specific WH order not to disclose nature of the mission. AMP-A

Naughton, in his NYT story, then reminds readers that Sturgis had been quoted in NYT "earlier this year" as saying he worked under Hunt on a 1971 investigation of drug traffic into the U.S. from Mexico, Paraguay and Panama. "In addition, there were ~~published~~ published reports last spring that the 'plumbers' were suspected of engaging in illegal measures, perhaps even an aborted assassination plan,

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aimed at Brig. Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera, the military ruler of Panama." (see SFC 13 Nov 73)

NYT 27 Jul 73, p. 10, James M. Naughton

CBS News ~~news~~ (no date; probably 27 Jul): "In a report from Washington, network correspondent Daniel Schorr said, 'The security 'plumbers' operation that Ehrlichman would not disclose today, committee sources believe, was a break-in into a foreign embassy.' Schorr did not elaborate."

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Hunt-Sturgis (investigation of drug traffic) <sup>1971</sup> - See entry, Ehrlichman, in testimony ....

Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera - See entry, Ehrlichman, in testimony ....

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①- On discussion between Ehrlichman and Baker about  
"Paragraph 5," which was excised from a memo to Ehrlichman  
from Krogh and Young, dated 11 Aug 71, see:

Ehrlichman testimony, Hearings, Book 7, p. 2702 et seq.

For shorter account, Congressional Quarterly,

Watergate, p. 216, col. 2, "Security Plea."

For explanation, WXP 31 Mar 75, "That Missing Paragraph,"  
by Carrie Johnson.

Entry 27 Jul 73, Ervin, Baker ....