

Witness: John Ehrlichman (4)

27 Jul 73

Ehrlichman, testifying at Ervin hearings, is today relaxed and confident, a noticeable change from his previous attitude, which was arrogant, belligerent and argumentative. (From impression on watching him.) truculent

Ervin, Baker, Dash and Thompson met at lunch break in hearings with Garment and Buzhardt, to ask them to ask Nixon to release the tapes and not force the committee to make a court test. No indication in story of Buzhardt's and Garment's reaction. AMP - A

SFC 28 Jul 73; NYT 30 Jul 73, Rugaber; WXP 30 Jul, Denton.

Withholding of tapes - Evans and Novak, in report on poll taken by them in Jersey City of "a carefully selected election district composed of white, ethnic workers of lower middle income who voted overwhelmingly for Mr. Nixon last year despite their Democratic heritage," say that Nixon's ~~refusal to release the tapes~~ refusal to release the tapes "puts him on the wrong side of a decision that threatens a massive change in Watergate's political impact. ... In short, the bitter controversy over the tapes has crystallized public opinion against Mr. Nixon more firmly, and on an issue more easily understandable to the average voter, than anything else connected with the Watergate disaster." The total is small, 93 voters, but authors give interesting breakdown of reaction to several questions.

WXPost 27 Jul 73

OVER

Ehrlichman memo of 15 Apr 73 on discussion with Colson, subject of two stories in NYTimes. Discussion concerns a way for Nixon to minimize impact of any possible disclosures by Hunt. See entry on this 15 Apr 73.

NYT 28 Jul 73, Kneeland; Naughton

Memo reproduced in WXP 28 Jul, p. 13

Nixon refusal to comply with subpoenas for the tapes - legal experts suggest possible effect, pointing to parallels in Jencks and Brady cases.

NYT 28 Jul 73, Apple

Haldeman is in WX preparing for his testimony before Ervin committee.

SFC 28 Jul 73 [UPI]

NYTimes conducts intvs across the country to guage Watergate impact on the public. From story by Steven V. Roberts: "The biggest reason people give for backing President Nixon last year is that he was 'the lesser of two evils.' Thus his public support may be much thinner than the election results would indicate. .... During the campaign last year, so many voters were frightened of Senator George McGovern ... that they tended to forget President Nixon's reputation. Now he is again 'Tricky Dick.' Still, the President was apparently holding his own until last month. Then he refused to hand over the tapes and records of White House conversations, and for many, the clouds of confusion cleared. They came to a simple conclusion: He had to be hiding something."

NYT 13 Aug 73, Roberts

See Gallup and Quale polls, in story by George Lardner Jr,  
WXP 15 Aug 73 (Gallup poll shows 67% disapproved  
Nixon's refusal to release tapes)

(27 Jul 73) AMP

① - For other refs on this, see 26 Jul 73, AMP-A.