

Witness: H.R. Haldeman (2)

31 Jul 73 (1)

Haldeman, in his opening statement 30 Jul and in testimony today, says the two White House tapes he listened to were the following. (See entry on WH restrictions, 30 Jul.)

Tape of 15 Sep 72 meeting between Dean and Nixon, at which Haldeman was present; listened to it at home during period 9 to 11 Jul 73; no others present. ~~Retained the~~ (COVER) E
~~kept the tape at home, unguarded, for 48 hours.~~ (NYT 1 AUG. P. 25, WASHINGTON) F (COVER) D

The September meeting was the one at which Dean said Nixon congratulated him on doing a good job, which he took to mean Nixon was praising him for keeping White House personnel out of the indictments, which had been returned ~~that day~~ that day against the seven Watergate defendants; from this he concluded Nixon knew ~~by that time~~ of the cover-up by that time. Haldeman says this meeting did not open, as Dean testified, with Nixon saying, "Bob had kept me posted on your handling of the Watergate," and that what Nixon said was, "This is quite a day, you've got Watergate on the way." Says Dean assured Nixon that "nothing would come out to surprise us," and that it was at this point that Nixon praised Dean for the way he had handled the matter.

Tape of 21 Mar 73 meeting, at which Haldeman was present for only 40 minutes; listened to it in a White House office in the latter part of Apr 73; no others present. (COVER) A B C

During the time Haldeman was present at this meeting, the subjects discussed were the grand jury, the Senate committee, executive privilege and Ehrlichman's theory that everyone should go to the grand jury without immunity.

Dean has testified to a meeting with Nixon 13 Mar 73, at which he told Nixon of blackmail threat by Hunt, ~~and~~ that Dean thought this could cost \$1 million, and that Nixon said the money would be no problem. Haldeman says ~~he doubts the meeting of 13 Mar actually took place,~~ that some of the things Dean said were discussed on that date were actually discussed 21 Mar, and that Nixon, after saying, "there is no problem in raising a million" went on to say, "but it would be wrong." Presumably Haldeman was present when this exchange took place since, under Nixon's instructions, he would not have been able to testify about it if he had not been present.

SFC [AP] 31 Jul 73

SFC [WXP] 1 Aug 73

NYT 31 Jul 73, Haldeman testimony, p. 24, col. 4

~~(31 Jul cont'd)~~ ~~11/1/73~~

(1A) (2)

- E Says he received the tape from Steve Bull in an EOB office he was allowed to use on visit to WX. Corrects this (through letter to Ervin committee by one of his lawyers, Frank Strickler, 10 Aug 73) to say he "believes" he received the tape from Bull 10 Jul 73 while at the home of Lawrence Higby. Also from letter: On 11 Jul Bull delivered tapes of meetings ~~Dean's account of 15 Sep meeting: see opening statement to Ervin committee, NYTimes 26 Jun 73, p. 33~~ of three other dates* (no elaboration) to him (place not specified); did not listen to these. Returned all to Bull 12 Jul, who he "thinks" picked them up at EOB office. - WXP 29 Aug 73, Meyer.
- F Butterfield, 13 Jul, in interview by committee staff, told of secret WH tape recordings; testified to this in open hearings 16 Jul.
- F Dean's account of 15 Sep meeting: see opening statement to Ervin committee, NYT 26 Jun 73, p. 33.

See entry 9 Nov, Haldeman

See entries, Butterfield 13 Jul 73; Higby 30 Sep 73.

*Tapes taken from EOB safe by Bull, 11 Jul, included one which supposedly covered all conversations in Nixon EOB office 11 through 16 Apr 73. Dean, in his opening statement (NYT 26 Jun 73, p. 35) says his meeting with Nixon 15 Apr 73 was in Nixon EOB office. ~~These tapes taken only by Bull, were not logged or reviewed.~~ See entry 1 Nov 73; 9, 11 Nov

- A Dean's version: see statement to Ervin committee, NYTimes 26 Jun 73, p. 34. See also his account of meeting with Nixon 15 Apr 73, NYTimes 26 Jun 73, p. 35.
- B Haldeman is unsure whether he listened to this tape before or after Nixon announced 17 Apr, when Nixon announced he had learned of 21 Mar of "major developments." - WXP 1 Aug 73, Lou Cannon. Add, p. 1A
- C In letter of 23 Jul to Ervin, Nixon said "none [of the tapes] has been transcribed or made public and none will be." - WXP 1 Aug 73; also NYT editorial, same date.

Listing of nine tapes requested by Cox, filed separately as memo.

31 Jul 73

(A)

Add for Note B: Evans and Novak say "all signs point to Haldeman being given the [March 21] tape April 15 or 16," after Petersen on 15 Apr 73 had recommended to Nixon that he dismiss Haldeman and Ehrlichman immediately, but retain Dean. Authors point out that Dean testified it was 16 Apr that "Haldeman and Ehrlichman emerged laughing" from Oval Office "but abruptly sobered when they saw him," and that Dean testified it was on the same day Nixon asked for his resignation. [Dean met with Nixon immediately after Haldeman and Ehrlichman left his office, and it was at this meeting Dean was asked for his resignation.] Authors say tapes of 15 and 16 Apr have not been requested by Ervin committee or Cox.

WXP 13 Aug 73, Evans and Novak

NYT 26 Jun 73, p. 35, col. 3, Dean prepared statement, meeting of 16 Apr.

See entry 26 Apr 73 (headed 'Tape, 21 Mar, 73')

Add for Note B: Nixon, at press conference 22 Aug 73, says Haldeman listened to only one tape, that of 15 Sep 72

WXP 23 Aug 73, transcript of press conference, next basic paragraph

seems to say Haldeman listened to only one tape, that of 15 Sep 72, but in the question and his answer it is clear this refers to the time after Haldeman left the White House. Cannon points out that in answer to this question Nixon says [from transcript] Haldeman [from transcript] "did not listen to any tapes in which only Mr. Dean and I participated. He listened only to the tape on September 15th, ... in which he had participated in the conversation throughout," but that Haldeman has testified that Dean was with Nixon alone both before and after Haldeman was in the meeting and that he heard the entire tape.* Perhaps Cannon is mistaken about which meeting he is referring to, since Haldeman testified it was the 21 Mar meeting at which he was present only part of the time, ~~but~~ and he did say he listened also to that part of the

See entry 22 Aug 73, p. 3

WXP 23 Aug 73, transcript of press conference, p. 10. last paragraph col. 2

WXP 23 Aug 73, Lou Cannon

*Perhaps Cannon is mistaken about which meeting he is referring to, since Haldeman testified it was the 21 Mar meeting at which he was present only part of the time, ~~but~~ and he did say he listened also to that part of the

(18) over

meeting at which he was not present.

Peter A. Jay (WXP 23 Aug 73) is also mistaken in thinking that Nixon, in answer to this question, allowed Haldeman to listen to only one tape.

31 Jul 73

(1 B)

"So far as the spectacularly ragged White House logs show, the [20 Jun 72] reel was locked away with the rest of the President's tape library; it is not listed ... among the 22 recordings Haldeman checked out in April [73] ... or the nine more reels he was allowed to take home in July

.... "

Newsweek 3 Dec 73, p. 28

31 Jul 73 (2)

Ervin says White House and Haldeman collaborated in a calculated leak of Haldeman's version of what is in the tape of 21 Mar 73 and made only a "powder puff objection" to Haldeman's testifying on this.

SFC [WXP] 1 Aug 73

AMP-A OVER B

White House tapes - Gerald Warren, at press briefing, is asked several times whether Nixon giving Haldeman access to tape of 15 Sep 72 Nixon-Dean meeting, and Haldeman's public testimony of what he recalled of its contents, did not demolish the confidentiality of the recording; Warren repeatedly refuses to answer. See entry 26 Jul 73, Charles Alan Wright.

Warren says two others have listened to tapes, Buzhardt on 27 Jun to phone conversation between Dean and Nixon 20 Mar 73, and Steve Bull (special assistant) on 4 Jun to tape of a ~~meeting~~ meeting 14 Mar 73.

SFC [NYT] 1 Aug 73

OVER A

Hunt - ~~Woodward and Bernstein~~ According to unnamed "government and non-government sources," Hunt testified in closed-door session with government attorneys (before Watergate grand jury appearance 2 May 73?) that New York apartment rented by Ulasewicz was to have been used to seduce women friends of Mary Jo Kopechne. Secret photos would have been taken and then used to blackmail them into giving details about her and about Chappaquiddick party. Bittman confirms today that Hunt ~~did~~ did make this statement. Ulasewicz has denied (no date) any involvement ~~in~~ in this scheme and said apartment was to be used as office for a private detective agency; however, "sources" say it was hardly furnished for that, with velvet wallpaper and fur rugs.

(In same story authors say Ulasewicz was sent to Chappaquiddick the weekend after the accident and his reports were sent to Caulfield, Rebozo and Nixon himself.)

SFC [WXP] 1 Aug 73, Woodward and Bernstein, Bizarre White House Probes Reported

(3)

B Dash says, after ~~H~~ the hearing, "He [Haldeman] was dying
to give it to us."
WAP 31 Jul 73, Meyer

A Ziegler, 19 Jul 73, says "the President's counsels" had
not reviewed the tapes.
WXPost 20 Jul 73

31 Jul 73 (3)

Colson - according to law partner, David Shapiro - has asked Ervin committee to permit him to testify before August recess, and wants opportunity to do so following Haldeman's testimony. (Haldeman's last day of testimony, 1 Aug.)

WXP 1 Aug 73

Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex), chairman of a congressional investigations subcommittee, says he plans to subpoena records of government spending to improve Nixon properties; will ask 2 Aug that full House Government Operations Committee invoke subpoena power. Story gives details of difficulties encountered in getting records from General Services Administration.

WXP 1 Aug 73, filed Nixon, real estate

Colson memo/Joan Hall - see entry 1 Aug 73.

(31 Jul 73) AMP

①- " ... an underlying belief in the Nixon inner circle that [the transcripts] would never be read by Congress. [Authors' emphasis. They apparently mean here that the transcripts would never be available to Congress, because they say later in the column, "Even after Mr. Nixon agreed Oct. 23 to surrender the March 21 tape to the grand jury, White House aides thought it never would reach Congress."]

"That ~~is~~ is certainly the best explanation for testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee last July 30 by [Haldeman]. Based on personally listening to and taking notes on the March 21 tape, Haldeman swore that Mr. Nixon said 'it would be wrong' to raise \$1 million in hush money ..."

WXP 13 May 74, Evans and Novak