

6 Aug 73 (1)

Witness: L. Patrick Gray III (2)

Gray, testifying before Ervin committee, says he told Nixon three weeks after Watergate break-in (conversation of 6 Jul 72) that he felt some White House staffers were acting improperly and illegally in efforts to use the FBI and CIA in the cover-up. * (See also entries on Gray testimony, 26, 27 Apr 73.)
SFC 7 Aug 73 (See p. 2)

IRS was ordered by White House in 1969 to collect data on extremist groups and individuals, according to Time Magazine; to date IRS has files on 3,000 organizations and 8,000 individuals.

SFC 6 Aug 73

Agnew and two Maryland political associates are under federal investigation for possible violation of various bribery, tax and conspiracy laws, WXPost learns tonight. In a statement late tonight Agnew confirms he is under investigation, proclaims innocence; "sources" say he was informed of this "last week" [2 Aug?]. Warren says there will be no White House comment at this time. OVER (A)

SFC [WXP] 7 Aug 73

Agnew "[seeks] an audience" with Nixon, according to Wall Street Journal. Unclear whether "seeks" means it was today that he asked for appointment, or whether he asked that a meeting be set for today.

SFC [WXP] 7 Aug 73

Nixon returns "unexpectedly" to Camp David this afternoon, a Monday, after having just returned after a long weekend there. (See also entry, Nixon properties.)

SFC 7 Aug 73

Helen Thomas, UPI, publicly embarrassed by Nixon in Oval Office at a bill-signing ceremony.

WXP 7 Aug 73, filed Nixon; SFC 18 Aug 73, both filed Nixon

*See article by William Chapman on "the biggest gap" in Gray's testimony, his failure to explain the delay of six months in destruction of the Hunt files, when he assumed ~~the~~ Haldeman and Ehrlichman were speaking for Nixon and ~~that~~ "in the light of his other testimony, which shows him to have been such an obedient servant for the White House." (B) OVER

WXP 7 Aug 73

(A) [Begin this item with:] Agnew: Richardson meets privately with Agnew, to supplement information contained in letter sent by Beall to Agnew 2 Aug, informing him he was under investigation. At WH, Warren refuses to say (16 Aug?) whether Nixon ordered Richardson to outline the evidence to Agnew.

SFC [NYT] 16, 17 Aug 73

(B) Talmadge, in his questioning, establishes clearly that Gray, because of his background and training, would obey orders; appears to be emphasizing this point by addressing him as Captain Gray during his interrogation. Quotes from Gray testimony: "In the Navy I was trained in, you said 'Aye, Aye, sir,'" when given an order. (Story by Meyer and Jay, ~~pp16~~) "I clearly got instructions, I thought, to burn those files and I burned them and that is going to be my testimony." (Gray is not asked if he ~~is~~ was given orders to burn the files at any time after they were turned over to him by Dean and Ehrlichman.) "I am testifying to you under oath and knowing full well that the substance of my testimony is critically important to this nation."

WXP 7 Aug 73, p. 15 - excerpts from testimony

p. 16 - Lawrence Meyer and Peter A. Jay

See also Kneeland, NYTimes 7 Aug

6 Aug 73 (2)

Hunt and Barker brought to Washington from Danbury tonight for further questioning by Cox's staff; Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzales also reportedly en route from the prison for similar questioning.

WXP 7 Aug, p. 16

Gray (see p. 1) also testifies that the names Carl Wagner and John Caswell were found in Hunt's notebook, that Wagner was Cushman's executive assistant, ~~but he does not know whether~~ ~~Wagner~~ that Helms called him (Gray) 28 Jun 72 to ask that the FBI not question either Wagner or Caswell, both active CIA men, and that Helms as late as Nov 72 called "my number two man" to say he was ~~going~~ going to ask Asst. Atty. Gen. Petersen to see if intv of Wagner could be prevented. Asked by Baker if Wagner was Cushman's executive assistant "at that time," says he does not know. Unclear whether "at that time" refers to time of the Watergate break-in, to the time of the call in June, or to that of the call in November. There is no indication of who Caswell is.

Gray testimony, transcript, 6 Aug 73

Nixon properties - "The Nixon Administration announced today that it had spent about \$10-million for Presidential security at San Clemente, Calif., Key Biscayne, Fla., and Grand Cay in the Bahamas, and at the places where the Nixon daughters have lived.

"The White House also announced that Mr. Nixon planned to commission at his personal expense a 'detailed accounting' by a 'highly respected firm' of his acquisition of the Key Biscayne and San Clemente homes soon after his 1968 election. The White House said this accounting would be made public." (Entry 27 Aug 73.)

NYT 7 Aug 73, Wallace Turner - filed Nixon, real estate.

See also other stories on this, same file.

6 Aug 73

(3)

Public opinion polls - Quale poll, last week of Jul and first week of Aug; Gallup poll, 3-6 Aug. Quale: if another election were held now, 49% would vote for Nixon, 51% for McGovern; 70% feel Ervin committee is "more in the right" in asking for WH tapes. Gallup: only 31% approve of the way Nixon is handling his job, a drop of 9 points in last four weeks and 37 per cent since peak in Jan; 67% disapprove Nixon's refusal to release tapes to either Ervin committee or Cox.

WXP 15 Aug 73, Lardner