

15 Aug 73 ①

Nixon makes radio and television address on Watergate. The statement issued to accompany it, which had been expected to be a point by point response to various charges, essentially restates what he says in the address, but does change the date he says he learned of the Fielding break-in (see entry 17 Mar 73); this correction does not appear in the speech. There is almost nothing new in speech or statement, except for accusation in the speech of "those [not named] who would exploit Watergate in order to keep us from doing what we were elected to do,"*and rationalization that illegal campaign acts by Rrpublicans occurred because in the 1960s "individuals and groups increasingly asserted their right to take the law into their own hands, insisting that their purposes represented a higher morality," and that this "proved contagious" and "became fashionable."

Text of speech and accompanying statement,

WXP 16 Aug 73

See also James Reston, "Speech That Didn't Do It,"

SFC 16 Aug 73

Haynes Johnson, "Nixon View: Wronged If Not Betrayed," WXP 16 Aug 73, p. 1, 18

Martin Schram, "Why Nixon Was Vague,"

SFC 20 Aug 73

Herb Caen, "The Man in the Glass Cage,"

SFC 17 Aug 73

Editorial, SF Sunday Ex and Chr 19 Aug 73

Charles Gould, "Watergate Opinion,"

SF Sunday Ex and Chr 19 Aug 73

James Reston, SFC 26 Aug 73

Nicholas von Hoffman, WXP 24 Aug 73

See also list of previous Nixon statements,

NYT 16 Aug 73

*that: "The time has come to turn Watergate over to the courts
.... The time has come for the rest of us to get on with the
urgent business of our nation,"

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Mrs. Nixon, after watching Nixon's address on television in WH family quarters, calls her press secretary, Helen Mc Cain Smith, who says Mrs. Nixon "sounded very happy and very proud." Quotes ~~Nixon~~ her as saying Nixon "spoke from the heart and it went to the hearts of the American people," and says she conveyed the feeling that "Watergate is behind us now."

SFC [UP] 16 Aug 73

on changes in
Nixon's character - Article by John Herbers on Nixon's
emotional state, especially in relation to Watergate, and
his ~~NYT 15 Aug 73~~ frequent absences from Washington.
NYT 15 Aug 73, filed Nixon (shorter version, SFC,
this file)