

21 Aug 73 ①

Nixon/Ziegler incident. White House admits "for the first time" Nixon is under tension and strain but insist he is capable of performing his duties. See refs below for various explanations for his tension. Warren, in response to specific questions on Nixon's mental and physical condition, says - and repeats - that he is not under medication. UPI, describing Nixon's speech to VFW, says he "blew some of his lines.... His eyes looked puffy and some of his words were slurred...." Evans and Novak say response of the VFW was polite but unenthusiastic, no ovation; that when he entered and was escorted to his seat on the stage he took it quietly, "then suddenly ... he rushed to the podium, raising his arms three times in the familiar V for victory gesture."

Nixon approved the change in motorcade route and was assured that the new route would be announced and that there would be crowds, but the crowd was sparse and some of the signs were unfriendly, and the Secret Service had disbanded spectators at the auditorium (presumably on the street or close to the building). See Remark to Rose Mary Woods, SFC 21

SFC [WXP] 22 Aug 73

SFEx [UPI] " " "

WXP 22 Aug 73, Evans and Novak

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Gallup poll taken following speech shows Nixon popularity has risen from low point of 31 per cent to 38 per cent, but 58 per cent of those who saw or heard the speech are dissatisfied with his explanation of Watergate. Bob-

~~SFC 22 Aug 73~~ Considine refers to a poll taken for NBC "last week" by Quale ~~intitac~~ which indicated that if the 1972 election were held at the time of the poll the Democrats would win 51 to 49.

SFC 22 Aug 73

SFEx 22 Aug 73, Considine

*SEE ENTRY 6 AUG 73

Nixon speech, reaction - From letter to editor by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor: "Mr. Nixon says it is time we put Watergate behind us and go on to other things. On the contrary, it is the duty of every citizen to stay with this case until it is settled. If public officials learn that all they need to do is sit tight until the citizens become too tired, bored, or apathetic to care any longer and then it will be business as usual, there will be still more Watergates of even larger proportions in the future."

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④ "The fact that Warren responded to the questions at all is more remarkable than the answers he gave. Usually, neither Warren nor Ziegler would accept questions which started with a presumption that the President was overwrought."
WXP 26 Aug 73, Cannon

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Remarks to Rose Mary Woods, see
SFC 21 Aug 73
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WXP 22 Aug 73, Cannon: (Warren says Nixon was speaking about "something entirely different . . . a personal matter Rose Mary was working on for the President.")
NYT 22 Aug 73, p. 23

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Sturgis and five others indicted by federal grand jury in Miami on charges of conspiring in 1968 and 1969 to smuggle stolen cars into Mexico. Mrs. Sturgis says through lawyer, Ellis Rubin, that timing of indictment "cannot be by accident;" Rubin suggests it might be a form of pressure by prosecutors to force Sturgis to talk about Watergate.

WXP [AP] 22 Aug 73 (Pleads innocent 27 Sep.)

④ Gill shares the office with Tom Jarriel, whose desk was not tampered with.

"One of the missing tapes contained Mr. Gill's summary of conversations he had in Miami with sources who gave information about the Senate Watergate committee's subpoena of certain bank records in Miami.... [Gill] has spent a considerable amount of time there in recent weeks, looking into the subpoena of the records of the bank with which Charles G. Rebozo ... is associated."

the longest in Nixon's presidency. - Lou Cannon, WXP, 17 Aug 73