

22 Aug 73 (1)

Nixon press conference, San Clemente, 50 minutes.

At the outset Nixon announced, as expected, that Rogers was to resign and Kissinger had been appointed Secretary of State. Lawrence Stern, WXPost: "The pent-up tide of Watergate questions came bursting through the sluices as soon as President Nixon finished his prepared announcement. The Kissinger appointment might just as well have been a local postmastership for all the attention it was accorded." See file for text and comment on press conference.

Administration officials say in Washington, before Nixon's announcement on Rogers, that the "last straw" for him was Rogers' news conference 20 Aug. Rogers' comment: "I am leaving on account of good health."

SFC, WXP, Lawrence Stern; UPI; UPI, Stewart Hensley,
23 Aug 73 ** *** SEE P. 2

Tapes - ~~In argument before Judge Sirica, Wright says~~,
In U.S. District Court, Judge Sirica asks Wright, "As a practical matter, isn't it likely that withholding of the tapes may thwart any further prosecutions in the case?" Wright says he does not believe so, because evidence advantageous to a criminal defendant must be made available to him, if it is also available to the prosecution, and the tapes would go to neither. Cox takes exception to a contention in Wright's most recent brief that Nixon has the power to suspend the Justice Department Watergate inquiry rather than provide it with the tape recordings.

SFC [NYT] 23 Aug 73

ABC News says one of its correspondents, Bill Gill, discovered 10 Aug the theft* of five audio cassette tapes, one of which "had sensitive information he had recorded as part of his investigation" of the Watergate case, as well as a folder containing his notes on the case. OVER - *

SFC [AP] 23 Aug 73

NYT, WXP, same
date

*from his office (ABC News
building, WX)

- See entry 10 Aug 73, Bill Gill

**See also Anthony Lewis, "Presidential Character," NYT 27 Aug 73

***Last press conference was 15 Mar 73,
making the period between these two (over)

(2)

④ Gill shares the office with Tom Jarriell, 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

22 Aug 73 (3)

Nixon press conference, San Clemente

22 Aug 73

The general impression seems to be that Nixon contradicted Haldeman by saying Haldeman listened to one tape while Haldeman said that he listened to two. OVER - ^

Haldeman (30, 31 Jul 73) testified he had listened to two tapes: that of 15 Sep 72, during period 9 to 11 Jul 73; that of 21 Mar 73, during latter part of Apr 73, but is uncertain whether it was before or after 17 Apr (when Nixon announced he had learned 21 Mar of "major developments").

Transcript of press conference (WXP 23 Aug 73, p. 10):

Q. You accepted [the resignations of Ehrlichman, Haldeman and Dean] on April 30th.... After that, you permitted Mr. Haldeman, after he had left the White House, to hear confidential tapes of conversations you had in your office with Mr. Dean. My question is, why did you permit a man who you knew might be indicted to hear those tapes which you now will not permit the American public or the federal prosecutors handling the case to listen to?

A. The only tape that has been referred [to] that Mr. Haldeman has listened to, he'd listened to at my request. And he listened to that tape, that was the one on September the 15th, Mr. Jarrell, because he had been present and was there. I asked him to listen to it in order to be sure that as far as any allegations that had been made by Mr. Dean with regard to that conversation, I wanted to be sure that we were absolutely correct in our response. That's all he listened to. He did not listen to any tapes in which only Mr. Dean and I participated. He listened only to the tape on September 15th, this is after he left office, in which he participated in the conversation throughout. [Complete "answer."]

There is a conflict with Haldeman's testimony in penultimate sentence of answer above, if by "any tapes" Nixon means any tapes whatsoever. From transcript of testimony 31 Jul (NYTimes 1 Aug 73, p. 22, col. 5):

Q. But in late April you listened to a tape of March 21 when Mr. Dean and the President, when you were not present at that meeting. A. I was present at a substantial portion of it. Q. Substantial portion of it but you did listen to the full tape? A. That is right.

Ⓐ The confusion apparently is caused by Nixon confining his answer to the tape Haldeman listened to after he left the White House, the tape of 15 Sep 72.