

5 Sep 73 ①

Nixon press conference, Washington. Announces he will send a new state of the union message to Congress, criticizes its "disappointing" record. ^{OVER-B}

Refuses to say what sort of Supreme Court decision he would consider "definitive," or to say - if the Court rules in his favor - whether he would make the tapes available voluntarily. ^{OVER-A}

Expresses confidence in Agnew "during the period that he served as Vice President," limiting endorsement to that period as he did at last news conference.

Acknowledges that administration has suffered a loss of public confidence but ~~blames this~~ attributes this to four months of criticism "by innuendo, by leak, by, frankly, leers and sneers of commentators."

NYTimes story describes Nixon as "smiling broadly, his demeanor calm and his answers generally more confident than at a session with reporters on August 22." Not many questions on Watergate. (Six out of 14 - Greider, WXP 6 Sep, filed Nixon.)

SFC [NYT] 6 Sep 73

F. Donald Nixon's phone was tapped for over a year during Nixon's first term, by the Secret Service on Nixon's direct order. According to "four highly reliable sources," including government investigators and a Nixon administration official, this was ordered because Donald Nixon's various financial activities might embarrass the administration; ~~partly based on~~ decision partly based/^{on} concern about Donald Nixon's involvement with Howard Hughes. Story says in the past five years there have been periodic news reports referring to attempts by Ehrlichman and Rebozo to keep Donald Nixon out of trouble.

The wiretap on Donald Nixon was handled by the Secret Service's technical security division, and was only one of several [no elaboration] carried out by them on Nixon's orders or those of WH aides who said they were acting for him. These taps were not among those ~~disclosed~~ already disclosed, the 17 taps conducted by the FBI.

SFC [WXP] 6 Sep 73, Woodward and Bernstein

Ehrlichman sends word to prosecutors in Los Angeles that he will surrender 11 Sep, the deadline for voluntary surrender. Indictment on charges of perjury, burglary and conspiracy ~~is~~

* "The President appeared to make it clear today that he would carry his appeal to the Supreme Court if he lost in the Court of Appeals. It remains possible, however, that the high court could refuse to accept jurisdiction of the Cox lawsuit, upon an appeal by the President, and that Mr. Nixon could then argue that such a refusal, eliminating the possibility of a Supreme Court ruling on the merits, was not "definite."

NYT 6 Sep 73, Weaver

"Mr. Nixon declined to answer a final question about the tapes, a query about whether he would be willing to release them voluntarily if he wins his point in court establishing the presidential right of confidentiality. The President, while leaving open the possibility of an affirmative answer, said White House counsel had advised him that it would be inappropriate to comment. [WXP transcript, col. 6.]

WXP 6 Sep 73, Cannon

Question 10: "Can you assure us that the tapes do not reflect unfavorably on your Watergate position, that there's nothing in the tapes that would reflect unfavorably? A. There's nothing whatever. "

NYT 6 Sep 73

B Mansfield, 7 Sep, after meeting with Nixon that morning, quotes Nixon as saying ~~that~~ ^{that} "Congress over-all was doing very well but that he would like to have his proposals given more consideration."

NYT 8 Sep 73

5 Sep 73 (2)

issued secretly by county grand jury 4 Sep, which also issued indictments of Krogh, Liddy and Young.

SFC [AP] 6 Sep 73

McCord and Magruder denied permission ^{by Judge Sirica} to make public addresses or grant interviews ~~by Judge Sirica~~ if they want to remain free pending sentencing. Sirica calls it a disgrace that they could "profit by their wrongdoing." Fensterwald says McCord wishes to speak to religious groups as "a matter of conscience" and asks if he may do this if he does not accept any fees; denied.

SFC [AP] 6 Sep 73

Dole introduces resolution to close the Senate Watergate hearings to the public. Inouye says Ervin committee may ask the Senate to extend the 28 Feb deadline for its report, but says he personally opposes continuing the hearings into next year.

SFC 6 Sep 73

Dash asks Sirica to schedule oral arguments 12 Sep on committee's suit for tapes, despite White House request for delay of at least two weeks.

SFC [AP] 6 Sep 73

Ehrlichman's lawyers, Wilson and Strickler, say he has agreed to testify as a prosecution witness in ~~Vesco case~~ trial of Mitchell and Stans in Vesco case. Lawyers make this public in their request to Judge Sirica to quash a subpoena for Ehrlichman's appearance 10 Sep before Watergate grand jury; ~~which would be his fourth~~ this would be his fourth appearance.

SFC [WXP] 6 Sep 73

Press - Breakdown of Watergate coverage by George Seldes.

NYT 5 Sep 73, filed Press