

21 Sep 73 (1)

Agnew/Nixon - From column by Tom Wicker: "The pattern of this Administration's statements, non-statements, suggestions, hints and leaks makes it reasonable to conclude that Vice President Agnew, too, has been strung up to twist and bleed, the latest human sacrifice to the insatiable Nixonian god of political power. It is no more in defense of Spiro Agnew than of common human decency to say that if it becomes apparent that he was sacrificed so that a Presidential nominee for 1976 could be put in his place, the point of public revulsion may finally be reached."

"A forced resignation or impeachment could take the pressure off Mr. Nixon since neither Congress nor the country would want to go through such an experience twice."

NYT 21 Sep 73, Wicker

Agnew - Jack Anderson says three major congressional committees have secretly ordered studies of what the response of Congress should be if it is called upon to rule on replacement for Agnew. Committees are Senate Judiciary, House Judiciary and Senate Rules committees; column gives precedents which could be considered.

"Before Agnew came under investigation in Maryland, [sources close to Agnew] point out, there were public suggestions that the President should resign. This talk has now stopped, because Agnew is no longer an acceptable alternative. Public attention has been focused, instead, upon the possibility that Agnew might resign. 'The charges against Agnew have created a marvelous distraction,' said one source. 'Now the President can offer up Agnew as a blood offering to placate the public.'"

WXP 21 Sep 73, Anderson

Frank Wills still cannot find a permanent job. He says he left his job at the Watergate because he had no paid vacation, and because another guard with less seniority was promoted above him.

WXP 21 Sep 73, Wolhowe

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Hunt, Barker, Sturgis, Martinez, Gonzalez, ordered by Sirica to file affidavits supporting their request to withdraw guilty pleas.

NYT 22 Sep 73 [AP]

Mrs. McCord (undated item) says she plans to give non-profit lectures to church groups on the subject of "Watergate, religious freedom and freedom of speech." McCord will appear on platform with her but will not speak.

NYT 22 Sep 73

Agnew - "Intense negotiations" apparently under way in the Justice Department and among Agnew's lawyers, and unconfirmed reports say Agnew will resign only if he is assured immunity from prosecution. See also entry, WXP, this date.

NYT 22 Sep 73, Herbers

Tapes - Kennedy says (no date) that if Agnew resigns Congress should refrain from confirming a successor appointed by Nixon until there is a settlement of the constitutional issue raised by Nixon's refusal to release the tapes, because "so long as the President himself is so clearly under ~~a~~^{the} cloud of the possible disclosures on the tapes, grave questions exist as to the propriety of the President's choosing his own successor."

NYT 22 Sep 73, Herbers; WXP 22 Sep 73, Cohen and Cannon

National Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the Presidency's suit, to stop further televised hearings of Ervin committee, is dismissed "curtly" by ~~Judge~~ U.S. District Judge June J. Green, who says the main problem with the complaint is the group's lack of standing to sue. At some earlier point in the proceedings when she indicated the suit might be dismissed because none of the plaintiffs would be harmed by a continuation of the hearings, Colson was added as one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

WXP 22 Sep 73, Robinson

Hunt and Liddy - Jack Anderson/^{column}says that since the day Hunt told the others involved in the Watergate break-in that he had "broken his secrecy oath" (talked to the prosecutors?), Hunt and Liddy have not spoken to one another. OVEA-A

WXP 22 Sep 73, Anderson and Whitten

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* Column says Hunt collected most of the \$460,000 hush money and that less than \$27,000 filtered down to the Cubans.

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Chotiner - Manchester Union Leader carried an article (no date) by Arthur C. Egan Jr. which said that Chotiner had organized three political sabotage and espionage teams, including those arrested at Watergate, and for this purpose used a secret fund underwritten by International Brotherhood of Teamsters and gambling interests in Las Vegas. Denied by Chotiner, who filed a \$3-million libel suit against the paper and Egan.

Last July Federal District Judge Edlard T. Gignoux (Portland, Maine), at Egan's request, signed a protective order prohibiting Egan from divulging his sources. Egan, after interview last week by Ervin committee investigators, asked for court permission to disclose his sources to them, to which Chotiner objected. Today Judge Gignoux rules that Egan may do so, and also removes a court-ordered ban on releasing information obtained in depositions by Egan and Chotiner taken in Chotiner's suit.

NYT 22 Sep 73

Nixon-Agnew meeting 20 Sep announced by Warren, who says both had instructed their aides that "there would be no report on or discussions of the meeting;" nevertheless, Warren goes on to say that Agnew "did not submit his resignation."

WXP: "Despite an official agreement that neither [man] nor their staff would discuss the meeting, a White House aide said that Agnew's resignation was a topic of the meeting and that the vice president left in a 'very discouraged mood.'" Agnew apparently had anticipated a shorter meeting, having to cancel a later appointment because the meeting ran longer than he had expected.

NYT 22 Sep 73, Herbers; WXP 22 Sep 73, Cohen and Cannon

Agnew lawyers and Justice Department officials have been engaged in what is described as delicate negotiations concerning possible Agnew resignation, coupled with guilty plea to a relatively minor offense; ~~but~~ it cannot be determined whether initiative for plea bargaining was on the part of the Justice Department or Agnew's lawyers. Richardson and Beall meet today to discuss Agnew case. According to "informed sources," "All the action is in Washington, not Baltimore."

WXP 22 Sep 73, Cohen and Cannon

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④ Cohen and Cannon point out that decision to enter into plea bargaining negotiations was apparently made 14 Sep, the same day Justice Department "signalled" that Richardson had decided whether the grand jury could hear evidence concerning Agnew. See entry 14 Sep.
WXP 22 Sep 73, Cohen and Cannon

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Nixon's trip to Europe will definitely be postponed, according to Administration sources, but no decision has been made about canceling it. UP notes that "for months Mr. Nixon has been talking about a European trip - but without naming a date - as part of his projected 'Year of Europe' policy."

Instead, Nixon may go to Japan. Was invited to do so when Tanaka was in WX 1 Aug and gave tentative acceptance, but visit was not expected to take place this year; Administration sources say it is being seriously considered.

SFC 22 Sep 73, UPI

See entry 19 Sep.

Mrs. Mitchell, ^{television} in/intv with Claire Crawford, NBC News (taped today for broadcast 23 Sep) confirms reports that Mitchell has moved out of their apartment. Examiner News Services gives the time as last week; AP says two weeks ago. * Mrs. Mitchell says that rumors of divorce have been "only through the media," and that "somebody mimics my voice all the time."

Says she did throw some of his clothes out into the hall but that this was because no one told her that his trial had been postponed; that Mitchell was angered by this and moved out; that he thinks she's overwrought and should have "some kind of care . . . I think they are terribly frightened I'm going to say something . . . I don't know what I could say . . ."

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*11 Sep - see entry 3 Nov.

WXP 23 Sep 73