

23 Sep 73 ①

Agnew/Justice Department. Edward Walsh says Fred Graham, Justice Department correspondent for CBS News, reported (no date) that Agnew offered to resign in exchange for promise he would not be prosecuted, quoting unnamed source. OVER -1
According to this report Petersen, with Richardson's approval, rejected the offer, insisting that Agnew plead guilty to a charge that could possibly mean a jail sentence, and that Petersen said, "We've got the evidence; we've got it cold." SFExaminer (Examiner News Services) says Petersen held out for a guilty plea to a reduced charge because he was "angered that he was relieved of the Watergate investigation when it appeared he was going easy on involved government officials." *

Examiner also says reports that Agnew would resign were apparently leaked by Laird and Garment.

WXP 23 Sep 73, Walsh
SFEx 23 Sep 73

*See Safire, NYT 1 Oct 73
MacKenzie, WXP 2 Oct 73

Magruder and William Sloane Coffin -- Edited excerpts of transcript of four-hour conversation between the two, arranged by Studs Terkel, and which appeared in Harper's magazine. Magruder's remarks show that attitude of those involved in the campaign and at the White House was that of large corporations.

WXP 23 Sep 73

Hunt - "Compulsive Spy" by Tad Szulc, to be published Jan 74 by Viking. Review by Joyce Illig says book includes material on "Hunt's CIA activities in a second, never-before-published plan for an invasion of Cuba in 1964." Reviewer says Szulc ~~did not get any first~~, in writing the book, did not get any firsthand information from Hunt himself.

WXP 23 Sep 73, Illig

McCord has postponed publication of his book, "Watergate Sanction." "Earlier this month" telegraphed his publisher that he was doing this because that day Sirica had banned "any further comments by me on the Watergate case" and that he assumed this order also banned his book.

WXP 23 Sep 73, Joyce Illig

* See article by Richard M. Cohen and Edward Walsh, which gives additional details about the bargaining. According to "informed sources," Agnew's lawyers proposed that charges be dropped in return for Agnew's resignation; rejected by both Richardson and Petersen.

Same story, quoting "sources," says evidence against Agnew involves not only his years as governor of Maryland, but also his tenure as Vice President, during which time he was given cash to use his influence in obtaining certain federal contracts or jobs.

WXP 26 Sep 73, Cohen and Walsh

23 Sep 73 (2)

Magruder has signed six-figure contract with Atheneum for book, now being written by ghost-writer who wants to remain anonymous. Maxine Cheshire says book is being written because Magruder was "taken off the lucrative lecture circuit by order of Judge John J. Sirica."

WXP 23 Sep 73, Maxine Cheshire

Agnew's lawyer, Judah Best, says Agnew has decided to file formal pleadings for a court order to stop the presentation of evidence to Baltimore grand jury; NYT says this could lead to months in litigation and that it "opens the way for a fresh judicial review of whether the President and the Vice President have constitutional immunity from prosecution;" that if new precedents were established as a result, WX lawyers say such precedents might also affect the status of Nixon's effort to withhold the WH tapes.

NYT 24 Sep 73, Franklin

Investigations and legal proceedings "now under way concerning potential scandals that directly or tangentially involve President Nixon or his associates" listed by NYT, which gives run-down on 15. (See also entry 10 Sep 73, WXP, Ungar.)

NYT 24 Sep, Rosenbaum (See also Wicker, NYT 25 Sep)

Nixon returns to WX from Camp David; had left White House 22 Sep after swearing-in ceremony of Henry Kissinger.

SFC 24 Sep 73

Harris poll, conducted between 23 and 25 Sep, shows that by 51 to 34 per cent, those polled believe that if Nixon refuses a court order directing him to release the tapes, Congress would be justified in beginning impeachment proceedings. By 47 to 39 percent they believe that if Ervin committee concludes that Nixon was involved in Watergate cover-up, Congress should impeach him; a sharp turn-around from results of poll taken a month earlier, when impeachment on this basis was rejected, 50 to 39 per cent. See story for other figures, including public's view on resignation: "The number who believe Mr. Nixon should resign [for various reasons] has gone up steadily from 14 to 31 per cent since last May."

[Cont'd, following page] (3)

23 Sep 73 (3)

[from preceding page]

Poll was of 1,475 households nationwide. See also
Gallup poll, entered 21-24 Sep.

WXP 4 Oct 73