

27 Sep 73 (1)

Agnew - Special federal grand jury begins hearing evidence against him; will not hold another session until next week. In contrast to the usual half-day meeting, this one lasted for seven hours.

WXP 28 Sep 73, Cohen and Richards

Agnew/statute of limitations - Federal statute of limitations on bribery and extortion expires five years after date of offense, ^{OVER - A} Any possible grand jury indictment on these grounds would have to be based on alleged violations during last months of Agnew's term as governor of Maryland (1966-69) or since he became Vice President. "Informed sources" say that government's case does not rest entirely on allegations of acts committed when he was governor of Maryland but also on acts committed while Vice President. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ OVER-
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The government might protect itself against the possibility that the statutes might lapse by asking for sealed indictments; these would be destroyed if the government lost the suit, but would be dated before the expiration of the statutes and could be opened after the court suit is resolved. In addition, "informed sources" say the government is prepared to ask for what could amount to a multicount indictment; many of these counts would not be affected by any approaching lapse of the statutes.

WXP 28 Sep 73, Cohen and Richards

Agnew - Fourteen Republicans on House Judiciary Committee, led by senior member, Rep. Edward Hutchinson, introduce resolution directing committee to investigate charges against Agnew, and to report to the House within three months; resolution is referred to Rules Committee which is expected to do whatever Carl Albert asks, either to kill it or leave it in limbo. The argument for killing the resolution is that this would prevent Agnew from arguing in court that the grand jury investigation should be halted because a request for the House to take jurisdiction of his case is still pending. Hutchinson says a House investigation "should not be considered as being in lieu of other judicial proceedings," but the Agnew case could be in the courts for months if not years, and the American people are entitled to a "fair and expeditious disposition" of the charges which a three-month

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A on tax fraud, the statute is six years. (On conspiracy, the government need only prove that any conspiracy was kept alive by an "overt act" that would extend the statute.)

8 See entry, Agnew 25 Sep, p. 3, note D.

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House inquiry could provide.

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WXP 28 Sep 73

Agnew, "relaxed, smiling," attends White House dinner for Prime Minister of New Zealand, Norman E. Kirk. "Unlike a week ago at a dinner for ... Prime Minister Zulfiqar Bhutto when some thought the White House snubbed Agnew, the Vice President ... was introduced with fanfare." ~~Nixon dances with Mrs. Nixon for the first time in public since daughter's wedding~~ Agnew speaks affably about present and Agnew, speaking "affably," says, "I don't regard Speaker Albert's decision as being permanent."

Agnew appears to be enjoying himself so much that, on his account, "the red carpet at the front door was kept down than usual." Nixon dances with Mrs. Nixon for the first time in public since daughter's wedding in June, 1971.

Agnew had initially declined invitation to this dinner because of a speaking engagement in California, but accepts after delaying speechmaking trip until this weekend. Nixon

WXP 28 Sep 73, McCardle and Smyth; also WXP 29, filed/

Agnew - Goldwater says, "I think this man has been framed. Every politician in the country could have this same thing pulled on us." (No further details.)

WXP 28 Sep 73, Lyons

Sturgis - Andrew St. George, New York free lance writer, is subpoenaed by Cox (no date); St. George says he had talked with Sturgis in connection with possible stories about Watergate, and that he will fight the subpoena.

WXP 28 Sep 73, Lyons

Ervin committee may shorten time given to hearings; "Committee sources [say] that a mood of disillusionment has set in among both senators and the staff since the testimony ... of Patrick J. Buchanan. One Democratic senator was quoted by an aide as declaring the session with Buchanan 'a real blow-out and an unmitigated disaster. He made us look like a bunch of fools.'" "One source" suggests that this was due, in part, to Dash's political naivete, and in part

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① NYT says at least three other resolutions are introduced today by Republican Representatives, in effort to create varying forms of a House committee to carry out Agnew's request; all are sent to rules committee.

NYT 28 Sep 73, Madden

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to the way Buchanan was handled by the committee. Staff members say there is now some doubt that the committee will go on with the third phase of the hearings into alleged irregularities in campaign financing.

WXP 28 Sep, Jay and Hanrahan

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National Citizens Committee for Fairness to the Presidency - Appeal to the Supreme Court, to stop Ervin committee hearings pending appeal of lower court's decision, denied without comment by Chief Justice Burger.

WXP 28 Sep 73, Jay and Hanrahan

Mrs. Hunt - National transportation Safety Board (WX?) says plane crash was due to pilot error,**

Harold C. Carlstead has said the money Mrs. Hunt was carrying was to be used as initial fee for obtaining a franchise for a Holiday Inn, "which Hunt later identified as being planned for Nicaragua." (No date.) "A source close to ... McCord quoted McCord*as saying the investment was to serve as a 'cover,' creating a legitimate source of income while Hunt was receiving money to keep quiet."

WXP 28 Sep 73

*(no date)

NYT 28 Sep 73, AP

**and that it found no evidence of sabotage or foul play.

Agnew - Reston says Agnew "has made up his mind about the next phase of what he calls his 'nightmare.' He does not intend to resign, even if he is indicted by the Baltimore grand jury, but to fight for exoneration through the courts, and keep appealing to the House of Representatives for a full and open hearing, no matter how long it takes. Mr. Agnew was not surprised that Speaker Albert refused to grant his appeal, but he does not regard this as final. One reason why Mr. Agnew approached the Speaker was that he felt it was far better to offer to appear publicly before a select committee of the House rather than to wait and be dragged to the bar of the House in an impeachment proceeding.

"He says that the President has been cordial and friendly,

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^A See also article by David E. Rosenbaum. ~~which concerns~~
"One Democratic Senator said today that the interrogation of
Mr. Buchanan was 'a complete embarrassment,' and a Republican
member of the committee told an aide that 'the final score
was Buchanan, 36, the committee, zero.' Senator Edward
J. Gurney of Florida, as usual the most outwardly partisan of
the committee's Republicans, seemed gleeful over the
Democrats' obvious embarrassment. 'It was one of the most
amusing days I have spent in a long time,' he said."

NYT 28 Sep, Rosenbaum

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and has never pressed him to resign or even to take a single step he did not want to take. He recognizes that how he deals with his legal problems could affect the President's legal problems, so he has nothing to say against Mr. Nixon."

NYT 28 Sep 73, Reston

Nixon/Agnew - R.W. Apple discusses options open to Nixon in the Agnew matter, and on its effects on the Republican party. "None of this is comforting to the Republican party. In a sense, the Agnew problem is far more serious than Watergate; the latter could be blamed on unprofessional zealots, but the simultaneous travail of Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew, party stalwarts fear, may suggest to the country an underlying strain of corruption. Worst of all, some Republicans fear that Watergate and the Agnew problem may reinforce the lingering public image of the party [as] a legacy of the Hoover years - as the adjunct of special privilege. In a time when it has just begun to appeal to the common man, largely as a result of social issues, that is the last thing the Republican party wants."

NYT 28 Sep 73, Apple

F. Donald Nixon was on guest list for WH dinner for New Zealand Prime Minister Norman E. Kirk (see entry under Agnew, p. 2) but does not attend because he is undergoing physical tests, according to his wife, who says she and her husband think Nixon "is the most fantastic and the greatest leader that this country has ever had. We love him dearly." Asked by reporter, "You didn't mind having your phones tapped? replies, "Not at all."

WXP 29 Sep 73, McCardle and Smyth, filed Nixon

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Nixon - From column by Anthony Lewis: "Agnew may or may not have taken bribes as a Maryland official; we have not seen the evidence. The crime, if such it was, is not to be condoned. But it involves only personal enrichment, not an assault on the Constitution. And so, if he were forced from office, Americans would be bound to make some resentful comparisons.

"It was not Spiro Agnew whose agents sought to rig the 1972 election by sabotaging the opposition party's choice of a candidate. [This is followed by seven other instances of "It was not Agnew who "]

"The country knows who "it" was. It understands with great clarity that the source of the trouble rotting America's natural optimism and decency is not Spiro Agnew but Richard Nixon."

Lewis concludes by saying that the only solution is the resignation of both Nixon and Agnew. "That is an extraordinary remedy, but we are suffering from an extraordinary illness. The time has come to face the real problem "

NYT 27 Sep 73, Lewis

Donald Nixon - Justice Department says it will investigate the possibility that conversations between Donald Nixon and John H. Meier were tapped; latter's lawyers have asked for transcripts of any recorded conversations.

Meier was fired as scientific adviser to Hughes Tool Co. in 1969, reportedly because he disregarded WH orders to dissociate himself from Donald Nixon.

SFC 28 Sep 73, LATimes