

21 Oct 73 (1)

Clippings for this day include much on reaction to Cox firing, from Congress, Justice Department and the public. ^{A, P} Also:

- "Nixon's Legal Position -- Details of His Offer." Article also goes into Sirica's legal options. (SFC, from NYT.)
- "Nixon 'Disappointed' by Reaction." "Buzhardt ... said he himself was surprised at criticism of [Nixon's proposal]. 'I expected a huge sigh of relief,' Buzhardt said." White House is surprised by avalanche of criticism. [SFC, from LATimes.] [SFC, from WXP, Kilpatrick.]
- "Congress Talks of Impeaching Nixon." [SFC, from NYT.]
- "How Decision Was Made." White House strategy and maneuvers. [SFC, from WXP, Woodward and Bernstein.] ^{A, P - B}
_{- C, E}
- "How Nixon Stood in [Gallup] Poll -- Before Cox." Rating is 30 per cent approval in poll, ~~for which no date is given.~~ [SFC.] taken 6-8 Oct [WXP, 22 Oct, Broder.]
- Baker says it was his understanding that Ervin committee would get summaries of all the tapes it subpoenaed plus verbatim transcripts of portions relating to Watergate. Ervin and Baker indicate that with Cox out, committee may expand its investigation into areas ~~into areas~~ involved in Cox investigation; Baker says Cox may be called to testify. [SFC, from WXP - two clippings.]
- Sen. Adlai Stevenson III says he is preparing legislation to re-establish the office of the special Watergate prosecutor. [SFC, AP.]
- Rep. Jerome Waldie asks for an immediate inventory of all the documentary evidence gathered by Cox's office to guarantee it will not be "obliterated" [SFC's wording]. Waldie sends telegram to Bork, saying that "Unless this action is taken immediately all the Watergate investigation documents will be put literally in the President's hands - a fact certain to contribute to the already appalling loss of public confidence in the presidency." [SFC.]
- Bork, profile by Linda Mathews. [SFC, from LATimes.]

All above from SFC 22 Oct 73.

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Tape summaries, ~~transcripts~~ (Nixon proposal) - "The White House will contend, in a written statement to be delivered to ... Sirica tomorrow or Tuesday [23 Oct], that the President's plan to give the court a 'summary' of the contents of the Watergate tape recordings 'satisfies' the judge's order that Mr. Nixon turn over the tapes themselves." ANIP - F

Nixon lawyer, Charles Wright, describes the form of the summaries, including the fact that in some instances Nixon's comments would be paraphrased.

NYT 22 Oct 73, Oelsner

Nixon proposal - For Ervin and Baker's understanding of what WH would turn over to Ervin committee, see entry, Baker says, and entry 20 Oct 73, "Ervin, Stennis "
- For comment on Nixon's proposal, from the standpoint of Ervin committee, the WH and Cox, see WXP 22 Oct 73, Stern.

Cox (Nixon proposal) - "As Cox put the matter somewhat poignantly Saturday at his news conference before he was fired: if the courts refused to accept the Stennis-verified summaries, then 'I would be left without the evidence with which to prosecute people whom I had used the summaries, perhaps, to indict.' Neither the President nor Wright nor Laird has explained why the President refused to allow Cox to submit to the courts the question of whether the proposed summaries would be admissible in trial evidence.

"Some of those who have been close to the dispute are questioning whether the White House did not realize beforehand that the terms of the compromise could not be acceptable to Cox in his role as Watergate prosecutor. ANIP - C

"According to one high-ranking administration official who was at the center of the Watergate events of the past week, an authoritative representative of the President asked ... Richardson on Monday [15 Oct] to dismiss Cox. Yet the first version of the latest 'proposal' for an out-of-court settlement submitted to Cox was dated last Wednesday [17 Oct]. The obvious question is whether the President had not determined at the outset of the week to get rid of Cox, and, as it turned out, whether the 'compromise' was not the vehicle to achieve that objective." (See entries 13, 17 Oct, Haldeman.)

WXP 22 Oct 73, Stern

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Special prosecutor's staff announces it will stay on the job. "The special prosecutors and other personnel in Cox's office had already decided to stay on the job en masse anyway and, as one of them said, let the White House pick them off 'one by one' if that is Mr. Nixon's intention." Cox, moments before his press conference Saturday afternoon, had urged them through key advisers to stay on the job; after Cox was ~~not~~ fired they all voted late Saturday to continue working.

The prosecution force includes 38 attorneys and a full staff of 80; most of them are permanent civil service employees.

The office of the special prosecutor has yet to ~~receive~~ receive any formal notice of its abolition, despite Nixon's announcement yesterday that the investigation has been transferred to the Justice Department.

WXP 22 Oct 73, Lardner and Richards

FBI guard - "One of Mr. Bork's first official acts this morning was to order the [FBI] to remove the agents who had been sent by the White House last night to seal off the offices of Mr. Richardson and Mr. Ruckelshaus." No mention of FBI agents guarding special prosecutor's offices.

NYT 22 Oct 73

Jonathan Moore, Associate Attorney General, whom Richardson brought to the Justice Department from the Pentagon, says he has submitted resignation today, to take effect next week. There is also a report that Petersen may resign.

NYT 22 Oct 73

Petersen may resign - See entry, Jonathan Moore.

Edward Bennett Williams, who "has been handling lawsuits stemming from the Watergate break-in and also represents Robert Vesco," says (no date - 22 Oct?) that burglars broke into his house 21 Oct and [AP's wording] "emptied his briefcase and the desk in which he keeps legal files."

SFC 23 Oct 73 [AP]

Vesco - See entry, Edward Bennett Williams.

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Impeachment - Story on reaction of members of Congress to firing of Cox; much talk of impeachment. "Two proposals appeared to be gaining support. One was for congressional creation of a new office of the special prosecutor, independent of both the White House and Congress, to continue Cox's work, [and the second] for a start of impeachment proceedings in the House, or at the very least creation of some special unit to begin studying ... whether grounds for a serious impeachment move exist." Story says a number of impeachment resolutions will be introduced in the House when it reconvenes 23 Oct.

WXP 22 Oct 73, Rich and Lyons

"International crisis" - "Pat Buchanan ... likened Mr. Nixon's actions to Truman's firing of MacArthur for refusing to obey White House orders during the Korean War. ... 'And you don't go after a President for making an unpopular decision, especially in a period of international crisis like this.' A public opinion analysis with close White House ties ... who declined to be identified by name, said Mr. Nixon may receive some benefit from the Middle East Crisis, 'because people credit him with skill in the diplomatic area, and the fear of war may make the opposition a little less intense.'"

WXP 22 Oct 73, Broder

Subpoenaed tapes - WXP prints list, as described by Cox in memorandum filed in federal court 13 Aug 73, giving subjects of meetings involved, etc.

WXP 22 Oct 73

Profiles of Bork, Cox, Richardson, Ruckelshaus.

WXP 22 Oct 73

List of those "whose departures from government have been linked with Watergate, the Ellsberg case or related matters:" Cox, Richardson, Ruckelshaus, Chapin, Magruder, Gray, Dean, Kleindienst, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Young, Strachan, Odle, Krogh, Caulfield. List includes dates.

WXP 22 Oct 73, Weil

Nixon goes to Eisenhowers' house after dinner.

AMP - D,
22 OCT

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(A) - Reno Western Union office, serving eight Western states, is swamped by those sending telegrams to WX; crush started 20 Oct, "moments after television and radio networks bulletined the firing of ... Cox and the resignation of ... Richardson." On a normal weekend this office handles about 4,000 telegrams; by late afternoon 21 Oct there were already 15,000; 75 workers and supervisors were called in on overtime. Story suggests the telegrams are running strongly against Nixon's actions.

SFC 22 Oct 73

(B) - See also "Cox Vowed Fight for Tapes ... "
WXP 21 Oct 73, Chapman

(C) - "The past week's White House maneuvering on the Watergate tapes issue was designed primarily to create a confrontation in which President Nixon could fire Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox and abolish his office, according to several high administration sources. When the Senate Watergate committee leadership agreed to accept the authenticated version of the tapes [19 Oct], the President saw the opportunity to get rid of Cox. 'The President knew that Cox would not accept the so-called compromise,' one source said [today], 'and Cox's refusal would be an act of defiance, making his firing not only reasonable but necessary . . . particularly in the face of the acceptance by the (Senate) committee.'"

WXP 22 Oct 73, Woodward and Bernstein

(D) - "The President's ... partisans ... felt he made a shrewd move when he offered to make available to the Federal District Court a summary of the Watergate tapes [etc., ending with dismissal of Cox]. They had not counted on ... Richardson's resigning ... nor had they expected he would be followed out the door by ... Ruckelshaus."

NYT 22 Oct 73, Clifton Daniel

(F) - Analysis by Clifton Daniel says Laird called the tapes compromise a "tremendous victory" for Cox (no date). *

NYT 22 Oct 73, Clifton Daniel

*On "Meet the Press 21 Oct - NYT 22 Oct,
Herbers