

22 Oct 73 ①

Cox firing (reaction) - See clippings for variety of responses: impeachment, resignation, establishment of a new special prosecutor by Congress.

- Western Union says a record 71,000 telegrams have been received in its WX office in the first 36 hours after Cox's dismissal; 50,000 have been delivered to Capitol Hill, 6,000 to the White House; backlog of 15,000 still being processed. Reno office says telegrams to WX are running 150 per cent above normal. (SFC, 23 Oct.)

- "Honk for Impeachment" apparently started today (WXP 23 Oct). (Nixon leaves for Camp David, mid-afternoon - AMP A.)

- European reaction: "Fred Emery, the Washington correspondent of the Times of London, wrote that as the FBI sealed off Cox's files 'the whiff of the Gestapo was in the clear October air. Some of the soberest men in government and out are now privately expressing anxiety that the military might now intervene - either to back the President or throw him out. It seems the stuff of nightmares but too much has happened this year for men to disbelieve anything they hear when they are awake." (SFC, AP, 23 Oct 73.)

Nixon proposal - From WXP editorial (23 Oct): "It is necessary ... to bear clearly in mind that the President's quarrel is not just with the ranking members of the Watergate committee or even with Congress. His immediate conflict is with the courts, whose unambiguous command the President seems determined to defy. [Following an analysis of the proposal, WXP goes on to say, of Nixon offer to make summary available to Ervin committee:] What is overlooked ... is that the Watergate committee is irrelevant to this transaction. For its own legislative purpose, it had filed a lawsuit to obtain the tapes and had lost. No amount of ... political cosmetics ... can obscure the fact that Mr. Nixon has announced his intention to defy that court order."

WXP 23 Oct 73

Ervin, Baker (tape summary) - See entry, Nixon proposal

Ervin says his committee cannot accept a summary of the tapes. "I have never agreed, under any circumstances, to receive summaries.....because a summary is another man's interpretation of the contents of the tapes. Any statement

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[from preceding page]
involving summaries was not part of the compromise. That's not what the President said to me. He never said anything like that. My understanding has been all the time that the committee would get the exact words off the tapes sent to us by ... Stennis "

SFC 23 Oct [UPI]

Inouye calls on Nixon to resign.

SFC 23 Oct [WXP]

Bork says he will continue the Watergate investigation, using Cox's evidence and staff, and that he has put Petersen in direct charge. AMP - C

Special prosecutor's staff says it will stay on the job at least until department officials have outlined its role, but says it will make clear its opinion, either in court or out, that there is a "built-in conflict of interest" in trying to carry on the investigation under Justice Department direction.

WXP 23 Oct 73 (no byline)

Special prosecutor's staff - See entry, Bork says

Watergate investigation - " " " "

Petersen, W/gate investigation - " " "

Resignations, Justice Department - Two men on Richardson's personal staff, Richard G. Darman (special assistant) and J.T. Smith (executive assistant) resigned 20 Oct when Richardson did. Ass't Atty Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger is said to be considering resigning. Assoc. Deputy Atty Gen. Richard E. Mastrangelo is said to have resigned yesterday. Assoc. Atty Gen. Jonathan Moore is expected to resign soon.

WXP 23 Oct 73 (no byline)

Richard G. Darman)
J.T. Smith)
J. Stanley Pottinger) See entry, Resignations, Justice ...
Richard E. Mastrangelo)
Jonathan Moore)

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Grand juries - Sirica orders two Watergate grand juries to come to his courtroom tomorrow morning; spokesman says Sirica plans to read a short statement which will contain "general comments that the judge wants to make to the grand juries before they get back to work." A.P. - B

One of the grand juries is scheduled to resume hearing testimony tomorrow and will continue to be directed by members of the special prosecution force, although they now will be Justice Department employees.

(Haldeman was scheduled to testify before "two of the special prosecutor's grand juries" 22 Oct - entry 17 Oct.)

The term of the original Watergate grand jury expires 5 Dec 73. A.P. - E

SFC 23 Oct 73 [WXP]

Sirica's options - See SFC 23 Oct 73 [WXP].

Haldeman - See entry, Grand juries.

Cox firing - Charles Alan Wright (apparently in court) defends the dismissal of Cox.

Prior to court session, Wright appears on NBC-TV, is asked if Nixon had not violated a pledge (30 Apr) to give Richardson full and absolute authority to make all decisions in Watergate case; answers, "Yes, yes, he did. But I think one has to view that in some context . . . At the time that . . . Richardson and . . . Cox made representations to the Senate, presidential tapes were not an issue. Neither . . . Richardson nor . . . Cox knew there were such tapes."

Regarding tape summary in Nixon proposal, Wright says it would include exact words of conversations involving Watergate, except for possible deletion of "pungent" remarks; conversations on non-Watergate matters would be summarized.

SFEx 23 Oct 73 [EX News Svc]

Wright - See entry, Cox firing - Charles Alan Wright

Tape summary - " " " " " " "

Richardson and Nixon meet for half hour. Richardson schedules televised press conference for tomorrow.

SFC 23 Oct 73 [AP]

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Rebozo - ABC says unidentified witness, Miami, had told Cox's staff that Nixon has a \$1 million investment portfolio administered through Rebozo's bank.

SFC [AP] 24 Oct 73

AMP-F
S

Nixon flies to Camp David. AP says Mr. and Mrs. Nixon went/

SFC [NYT] 24 Oct 73; SEE 23 Oct [AP]

by car.

AMP-A

Gallup poll (19-22 Oct, 1583 polled) shows Nixon popularity at new low point, 27 per cent. Three-quarters of the field work was done before the news of Cox firing, and at that point the figure was 31 per cent; ~~one-quarter of the field work~~ interviewing done after Cox firing resulted in figure of 17 per cent. Current rating is only four points above lowest popularity rating recorded in more than 30 years.

See clipping for detailed results and analysis, and for results on impeachment. *

SFC 5 Nov 73

Vesco (according to his trial lawyer in Nassau, Eugene Dupuch, 18 Nov 73), after having obtained status of permanent resident of Argentina ~~with the approval of President Nixon~~, today obtains an order from an Argentine court granting him immunity from extradition.

29 Mar /74.

See entry 19 Nov 73; other refs, listed with entry, Wall Street Journal 19 Nov 73, Scott R. Schmedel

Tapes - William Safire on Nixon strategy in firing Cox: "Mr. Nixon's 'big play' focuses attention where he wants it, on the tapes, which do not worry him as much less publicised targets of investigation. Predictably, the fuss being raised is about what is to be summarized and what quoted verbatim ... and whether the tapes have been tampered with. His adversaries would do better to stop gurgling in outrage and start fashioning investigatory tools to find out what lies beyond the tapes."

SFC 22 Oct 73, William Safire [NYT]

*See also Gallup and Harris polls, with comparison of figures covering period May through Sep 73. (WXP 22 Oct 73.) Results published today.

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Comment on Cox firing - See editorial, titled "One-Man Law ..."
"The desperation of President Nixon's moves this weekend to block the Watergate investigation makes it plain that neither law nor orderly governmental process now stand as obstacles to the exercise of his will." Editorial mentions "the familiar plea that the Presidency must not be weakened 'at a time of serious world crisis.'"

- Anthony Lewis, column titled "The End Begins." "Before long, someone in Richard Nixon's shrinking palace guard will surely tell him that he must listen as the country sends him the same cry that went across the floor of the House of Commons to Neville Chamberlain in 1940: 'In the name of God, go.'"

NYT 22 Oct 73

Hughes contribution - Chronology of events, going back to the spring of 1968. For many details, dates, see story.

Story says that in addition to the \$100,000 given Rebozo, Hughes gave \$50,000 to different Nixon campaign committees in Nevada (apparently in the spring or early summer, 1968), by means of 17 checks. In 1972, during the pre-April 7 campaign drive, Hughes gave \$50,000; story does not say whether by check or cash. "Just before the [1972] election, Mr. Nixon's solicitors returned to Mr. Hughes's agents and asked for more." Hughes gave another \$100,000, "qualified sources said." This donation was in the form of checks.

In this story the only mention of contribution in cash is the \$100,000 given Rebozo.

NYT 22 Oct 73, Wallace Turner

Rebozo (bank) - Thomas R. Bomar, chairman of Federal Home Loan Bank Board releases ten-page letter to Rep. Wright Patman, chairman of House Banking and Currency Committee, in which he denies any impropriety in the approval of federal insurance of Key Biscayne Saving and Loan Association; says approval was based on new information, specifically new population and projected growth figures. See entry 17 Oct.

SFC 23 Oct 73 [AP]

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Possible diversionary tactic? - Terrence O'Flaherty, television critic, on events of 20 Oct: "The only worry that gnaws on the nerves of more imaginative spectators is the fear ... that one of the final surprises will be The Grand Diversionary Tactic staged in some remote place like the sandy wastes of the Sinai Peninsula "

SFC 22 Oct 73, Terrence O'Flaherty

Nixon - Eric Sevareid, on CBS (no date): "The Nixon Presidency will be discussed for decades, not only because of its policy judgments, good or bad, but also because of this President's judgment of other human beings. Maybe the psychologists can help the historians figure out why Mr. Nixon was attracted to these kinds of men, and why these kinds of men were attracted to Mr. Nixon. The body count is already far too high to be explained by happenstance or ill luck."

SFC 22 Oct 73, Terrence O'Flaherty

Rebozo (bank, savings and loan) - "The FBI is said to be investigating the disappearance of confidential files on a Florida savings and loan association run by associates of Bebe Rebozo.... The Baltimore Sun reported today that the documents on the Key Biscayne Bank are missing from the offices of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The files in question detail how the federal government decided to grant the Rebozo bank federal insurance after twice turning it down. " A 028 - F

KPFA News, transcript, 22 Oct 73 Also entry, 23 Oct.

Haldeman is scheduled to testify ^{today} before "two of the special prosecutor's grand juries"; had testified 17, 18 and 19 Oct. See entry 17 Oct 73; Haldeman testifies

Nixon, million-dollar portfolio - See entry, Rebozo, ABC says ...

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Nader announces he will file suit tomorrow, challenging Nixon's decision to fire Cox. Basis for the suit is explained by Al Morrison, who directs litigation for Public Citizen, Inc.:

"The lawsuit which we intend to file tomorrow challenges, first, the attempt to remove Special Prosecutor Cox from his position as the special prosecutor. The grounds for this are two-fold. First, that the regulation which creates the office of special prosecutor is still in effect, it has not yet been abolished, and it specifically provides, as Elliot Richardson stated before the Senate, that the person who holds that office may be discharged only 'for extraordinary improprieties on his part.' We contend that the rule of law requires a finding that there are no extraordinary improprieties, since the only act which is alleged to have been the basis for his firing is his continual insistence on litigating the claim of executive privilege, and the very same regulation specifically authorizes him to determine whether or not 'to contest the assertion of executive privilege.'

"The second ground which we are alleging is that the defendant in the lawsuit, who will be Robert Bork, the Acting Attorney General of the United States, is limited in his powers as Acting Attorney General, and that he may not, consistent with those limited, necessary powers, remove the Special Prosecutor, for that may be done only by a duly confirmed Attorney General of the United States, as Elliot Richardson was when he appointed Special Prosecutor Cox."

KPFA News, 22 Oct 73

Public Citizen - suit challenging firing of Cox.

See entry, Nader announces ...

Nixon - Bitter attack on Nixon and his administration by Ralph Nader, at press conference given to announce suit challenging firing of Cox.

KPFA News, transcript, 22 Oct 73

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Goldwater backs Nixon's decision to fire Cox and "thus threw his weight against a rising public demand that Mr. Nixon resign or be impeached for his action," but is uncertain that Nixon had the authority to abolish special prosecutor's office. Goldwater says Cox was investigating Nixon's personal income and other matters not related to Watergate break-in.

WXP 23 Oct, Broder

Newspaper reaction - WXP names nine papers which had supported Nixon, now critical of him, and one major paper supporting him.

WXP 23 Oct, 73, Broder

"[Edward M. Kennedy] and Cox conferred once, possibly twice, during the weekend." Kennedy is pressing for full scale investigation into Cox's dismissal, by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SFEx 23 Oct 73 [UPI]

(22 Oct 73) AMP (A)

(A) - Nixon returns to WH 23 Oct, meets with Kissinger late in the day.

"Nixon trips to Camp David on weekdays [22 Oct a Monday] often presage a speech or press conference. However, associates indicated that, while Nixon was concerned about 'continuing to present our point of view' in the tapes controversy, he had no immediate plans for a television-radio address to the nation on the subject.* A possible speech ~~later~~ later remained one of the options under consideration, however."

SFEx 23 Oct 73 [AP]

*See entry 23 Oct, Nixon/television ...

- WXP says Nixons drove to Camp David, mid-afternoon.

WXP 23 Oct 73, Kilpatrick

(B) - Sirica tells the grand juries, "You are not dismissed and will not be dismissed except by this court."

SFEx 23 Oct 73 [Ex News Svc]

(C) - Chicago Sun-Times says Petersen has accepted the limitations ordered by Nixon, that the prosecutors make no further effort to subpoena "tapes, notes or memoranda of presidential conversations."

SFEx 23 Oct 73 [Chicago Sun-Times]

(D) - Trip to Camp David was unannounced. "Nixon has been increasingly secretive in recent months about his comings and goings. Word that he had driven to Camp David came only after a reporter made inquiries. Similarly, ... Warren told a ~~reporter~~ ~~reporter~~ reporter Sunday evening [21 Oct] Nixon had no ~~pp~~ plans to go anywhere, after the newsman reported observing preparations for a presidential motorcade. [This morning], having been told that a reporter saw Nixon leaving the White House, Warren acknowledged that Nixon had driven to daughter Julie Eisenhower's house in suburban Maryland after dinner."

SFEx 23 Oct 73 [AP]

(E) - AP said 11 Oct that Richardson had asked Congress to extend life of grand jury for 12 months (see entry). Chicago Sun-Times (SFEx 23 Oct) says administration supports extension for six months beyond expiration date in December.

(22 Oct 73) AMP (B)

(F) - There are four entries involving Rebozo on this date, headed as follows:

- Rebozo - ABC says
- Hughes contribution
- Rebozo (bank)
- Rebozo (bank, savings and loan)

- (G) - See entry 24 Oct, Cox, intv by Walter Cronkite.
- See entry 26 Oct, Nixon press conference.
- See entry 23 Oct 73, Nixon (million-dollar portfolio), and entry under Rebozo, same date, for other refs.
- See entry 22 Aug 73, ABC News says (theft, 10 Aug 73, of cassette tapes and notes of Bill Gill, who had spent some time in Miami checking into subpoena for Rebozo's bank records; includes refs.)
- See entry 7 Nov 75, Nixon (Bahamian bank).