

26 Oct 73 (1)

Nixon press conference, televised - Opening statement deals with Mideast situation, then with Cox firing; denies he has a \$1 million investment portfolio; defends ^{A, B, C, D, E, F}Rebozo as "a totally honest man." Appears very angry, attacks press: "Don't get the impression that you've aroused my anger ... [smile, long pause, laughter from those present] ... you see, one can only be angry with those he respects."

Leaves very abruptly after hostile question from Mollenhoff, cutting off the press conference. Had said earlier in answer to question by someone else, "The tougher it gets, the cooler I get." * (See Caen 30 Oct: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going, right?") * OVER - A

Ford's reaction to press conference: "I felt the President was strong but humble I thought the President was just superb."

Special prosecutor will be appointed, Nixon says at press conference; will be independent and have "total cooperation from the executive branch," but will not be given presidential documents. (See entry below.)

Bork, two hours before Nixon press conference, says he hopes new prosecutor will be independent, and that "if his independence were interfered with I would feel that my position would be intolerable . . . morally untenable." Opposes legislation which would empower Sirica to appoint the prosecutor and make him the only one who could fire him.

Alert is being relaxed. Schlesinger says he ordered the alert on his own authority, 11:30 p.m. 24 Oct, without talking directly with Nixon, who subsequently gave his approval. Nixon had said at press conference, "I ordered [the alert] shortly after midnight "

Special prosecutor (see entry above) - Birch Bayh introduces Senate bill specifying the new prosecutor would be selected by Sirica, who would be the only one who could fire him; would be totally independent of executive branch. Bill has 53 cosponsors, including Weicker and four other members (not named) of Ervin committee.

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- (A) "I have a quality which is the tougher it gets, the cooler I get. I have what it takes."
SFEEx 27 Oct 73 [AP]
See also Terrence O'Flaherty, 6 Nov 73.
- (B) See entry 13 Dec 73, Nixon (secret portfolio).
See entry 20 Dec 73, Vescom (Nixon, Donald Nixon)
- (C) "There were various news reports last year that Senate and Justice Department investigators had found 'evidence' of a \$1-million 'trust fund' administered in Mr. Nixon's behalf by the Key Biscayne (Fla.) Bank and Trust Company, which Mr. Rebozo heads. The alleged trust fund was purportedly made up of interest earned on large 'contributions' from individuals and corporations that were received and invested far in advance of the Republican and Presidential election campaigns for which they were intended. The special prosecutor's office has reportedly acquired a tape-recorded conversation in which a former officer of Mr. Rebozo's bank asserted that he had managed the Nixon 'trust fund.' But the officer, Franklin Deboer, later denied knowing of any such fund."
NYT 9 Dec 74, John M. Crewdson
- (D) See entry 23 Oct 73, Nixon (million-dollar portfolio), and additional refs that date, under heading of Rebozo.
- (E) For exact quotation, see NYT transcript, 27 Oct, Question 12. See also WXP transcript for other quotations marked.
- (F) See entry 7 Nov 75, Nixon (Bahamian bank).

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Impeachment - House Judiciary Committee will meet 30 Oct to work out ground rules for inquiry into possible impeachment of Nixon. See story for differences in viewpoint of Democratic and Republican members.

Cox files - Sirica signs protective order declaring the files "to be in the custody of this court;" the only ones permitted access to them will be Cox's former staff and Petersen.

Hunt, Barker, Sturgis, Gonzalez, Martinez - Sirica postpones for one week hearing scheduled for 29 Oct, when he would have heard their request to re-open their cases.

Ehrlichman, Krogh, Young, Liddy - trial date set for 19 Dec.

Dita Beard - story on Kenneth Lazzarini, who from Oct 72 to Mar 73, spied on her for ITT. (See entry 3 Oct.)

All above SFC 27 Oct 73

"Nationwide Demand for Impeachment." House Judiciary Committee has received 10,121 letters and telegrams calling for impeachment, ~~10,121 letters and telegrams~~ 167 against; most of the letters received today were written after Nixon said he would release tapes. Committee aide says, "It doesn't seem to have made any difference, it hasn't slowed things down much at all."

Special prosecutor - Republican sources say Nixon is considering sharing with a select group of congressmen the authority to fire him.

- Bork has already decided on new prosecutor. Has said he wants him to have the identical authority Cox had, including the right to fight in court for evidence held in the WH.

- Baker suggests that two special prosecutors be named, one by Nixon and one by Congress, one a Democrat and one a Republican, neither of whom could be fired without congressional consent.

Rebozo case to be taken up at next scheduled meeting of Federal Deposit Insurance Corp, 30 Oct, which will look into

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[from preceding page]

allegations he/^{had} dealt in stolen stocks. (See entry 25 Oct.)
Chairman of FDIC says it is investigating Rebozo's hiring of
Franklin S. Debour to head Key Biscayne Bank and Trust Co.'s
trust department less than a year after SEC barred him (no
date) for allegedly selling unregistered securities.

All above SFE 27 Oct 73

Rebozo - Justice Department/^{makes decision}~~decides~~ not to prosecute him;
says it has decided he did not engage in criminal conduct
when he cashed \$91,500 in stolen stock.

SFC 1 Nov 73 [WXP]

Executive privilege - Nixon, in answer to question at
press conference today, says, "We have waived executive
privilege on all individuals in the administration.
And as far as any other matters are concerned, the matters
of the tapes, the matters of presidential conversations, those
are matters in which the President has a responsibility to
defend this office [from encroachments on confidentiality
which might affect future Presidents], which I shall continue
to do. "

WXP 27 Oct 73, text of press conference

Nixon "secret portfolio" - See entry, Nixon press
conference; earlier entry 22 Oct, Rebozo, ABC says ...