

12 Nov 73 (1)

Missing tapes - Nixon, in statement to Sirica, says dictabelt recording of his recollection of meeting with Dean 15 Apr is also missing, offers to provide instead his personal notes on the conversation. (NYTimes describes this as "his own handwritten notes taken during [the] meeting.")

On the phone call, Nixon-Mitchell 20 Jun 72, Nixon offers to provide a dictation belt carrying his recollection of the conversation.

Nixon also offers to provide three reels of tape covering the times of Nixon-Dean 15 Apr conversation and Nixon-Mitchell phone call 20 Jun, "to assist the court in verifying" that they were never picked up.

Nixon also offers to provide a second dictation belt dealing with two conversations with Dean 21 Mar, along with actual tape recording of those meetings.

- Sirica announces terms of agreement between WH and the prosecutors, which include the following: joint panel of technical experts will examine subpoenaed tapes and all other material for evidence of tampering or alteration; all tapes and other material will be copied, the originals sealed and stored in WH vault until they are delivered to Sirica for screening; WH will submit to the court by 20 Nov an analysis and index of all the subpoenaed material, and the actual tapes; on 30 Nov Sirica will hold closed conference with the prosecutors and WH lawyers to discuss claims of privilege; after deciding whether any of the material is privileged, will transmit to the jurors - after consulting with the prosecution force if he wishes - all portions which appear to provide relevant evidence for their investigation.

NYT: "It seemed clear from [Sirica's] proposed schedule, however, that he is not disposed to argue with the White House contention that two of the tapes under his jurisdiction were simply not in existence, at least pending some contrary evidence of tampering from the technical experts." This would mean that Sirica would be willing to accept seven tapes, in spite of the fact that the subpoena calls for nine and that Nixon 23 Oct said he would "comply in all respects."

SFC 13 Nov 73 [NYT]

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"Nixon's Big Honesty Campaign" - After Nixon issues statement offering to provide Sirica with additional tapes, Ziegler says Nixon intends to answer "fully and publicly" all charges against him, and that complete files are being compiled of all allegations against Nixon, his aides, his family and friends, along with information to refute them. These would include "erroneous charges" on investment portfolio; financing of Key Biscayne and San Clemente properties; improper tax returns; Tricia Cox taking illegal advantage of tax laws; ITT; milk producers.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI]

Nixon meets with "the new Republican Coordinating Committee, a group of about 20 top GOP elected officials and party leaders assembled by National Chairman George Bush."* This committee adopts resolution favoring full disclosure of all facts in Watergate matter and welcoming Nixon's statement to them that this would be done. "But the committee resolution fell short of a ringing endorsement of the President, and some members complained about a 'monologue' by Mr. Nixon. Bush conceded there was no exchange between the committee members and Mr. Nixon during his presentation, but said 'people had an opportunity to visit with the President and have exchanges of views beforehand.'"

- Nixon also meets in the evening with seven Democratic senators to discuss Watergate; all senators are from southern states.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI]

*Described in undated, unattributed article as "the 28-member Republican Coordinating Committee, only recently revived in an effort to divorce the Republican party from the Administration and Watergate in hopes of surviving the 1974 congressional elections."

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Tapes -

Louis Sims, chief of technical service, Secret Service (testimony 16 Jan 74) says that today Bull asked that Uher 5000 recorder be picked up from his office and modified so that it could not record. (See entry 16 Jan 74.)

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP]

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~~Sims~~

According to WXP ~~18 Jan 74~~, Sims testified 17 Jan 74 that Bull asked for modification of the recorder 9 Nov, and it was modified 12 Nov.

WXP 18 Jan 74, Lardner

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Nixon daughters to make public appearances this week, Julie Eisenhower 13 Nov in Charleston, honoring teen-age hospital volunteers, and Tricia Cox 14 Nov in New York at dedication of Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [AP]

Kremlin, by means of Tass dispatch from New York quoting Commerce Secretary Frederick B. Dent, indicates its renewed support of Nixon; characterizes those calling for Nixon's resignation or impeachment as rude, revengeful, irresponsible and small in number.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI, Moscow]

Cox, speaking before NY City Bar Association, says obstacles were put in his path whenever he sought information which might lead to areas other than the specific break-in at Democratic headquarters. When he asked Richardson for file on milk case, Richardson agreed but was overruled by WH lawyers. The order to stop his investigation of Fielding break-in came from Nixon personally; "The President said, 'Keep the hell out of that.'"

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Special prosecutor - House Judiciary subcommittee approves (5-to-4 party line vote) legislation which provides that three judges on U.S. District Court, WX, name a prosecutor for a three-year term and have sole power to discharge him. Senate Judiciary Committee meets tomorrow for final action on bill empowering chief judge of the U.S. District Court to name a prosecutor independent of executive branch.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI]

Krogh's lawyer, Norbert Schlei, says in Los Angeles that at a court hearing 14 Nov he will seek a personal subpoena on Nixon for tapes and documents related to Fielding break-in; subpoena would not be for Watergate tapes but for a tape (?) of a particular meeting of Nixon, Krogh and Ehrlichman 24 Jul 71, when instructions were given to set up "plumbers squad." ~~Subpoena is checked re: Nixon~~

SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI]

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Goldwater - "For the past week, Senator Barry Goldwater has spoken once and sometimes twice a day at university and college campuses in Utah, Idaho, Washington and Wyoming... delivering his harshest criticism of President Nixon's handling of the Watergate scandals. While insisting there is no reason for the President to resign or be impeached, Goldwater has pictured Mr. Nixon as a political loner who has repeatedly made serious mistakes because he will not listen to friends who could help him."

SFC 12 Nov 73 [LATimes]

Colson - Jack Anderson on Colson's idea of starting a fire at the Brookings Institute, early July 1971. Says Caulfield "told the Senate Watergate investigators behind closed doors" that "he 'believed that the clear implication was for (him) to start a fire there.' But this was too much for [Caulfield]. After hearing Colson's proposal, Caulfield 'literally ran to [Dean's] office' and said he was catching 'the next plane to San Clemente' because 'enough is enough'."

SFC 12 Nov 73, Jack Anderson

Impeachment - Joseph Alsop asks what Nixon would do if a ~~vote~~ bill of impeachment is actually voted. "Will he expose the country and himself to the horrors of a presidential impeachment trial by the present frivolous, divided and partisan Senate? Will he take this kind of risk for the country in a time that he regards as deadly dangerous? Will the President resign when this situation faces him, in short; or will he 'tough it out,' when doing so begins to mean acute peril for the U.S. as a whole? Given the President's strong national-mindedness, the foregoing question is all but self-answering."

SFC 12 Nov 73, Joseph Alsop

Resignation - Ford: "I'm convinced there is no possibility of the President's resigning. I don't think the President is going to be swayed by the mob or the editorials."

Says it is relatively unimportant that dictabelt of Nixon's recollection of his conversation with Dean (15 Apr) is now missing, that a tape made of a phone conversation between the two 16 Apr contains a re-hash of the 15 Apr discussion. SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI]

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Dean is suspended from practicing law in Washington, D.C. by three-judge federal court panel, first step in disbarment proceedings.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [AP]

Segretti enters minimum security Federal prison, Lompoc, arriving in white Mercedes Benz coupe, to begin six-month sentence for political sabotage.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [AP]

William H. Rentschler, who managed Nixon's 1968 campaign in Illinois, named in federal indictment charging him with \$1 million fraud scheme involving banks and a New York City credit union.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [AP]

Braniff Airways and its board chairman plead guilty to making an illegal \$40,000 cash contribution to Nixon's 1972 campaign. Airline is fined \$5000, the maximum, and the board chairman, Harding L. Lawrence, \$1000, also the maximum, but he could also have been imprisoned for a year. These are the first federal criminal charges filed by Jaworski since becoming special prosecutor.

SFC 13 Nov 73

CBS will return to carrying "instant analyses" following presidential speeches; these had been discontinued 6 Jun following public WH complaints.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [UPI]