

15 Nov 73 , ①

Nixon speaks at convention of Nat'l Assoc of Realtors in WX, in what is described by WXP as a "campaign-type review of the year's events, with only a minute devoted to charges of scandal." Frequent applause from sympathetic audience and "standing ovation when he defended his Watergate role." Blames "overzealous" associates for "mistakes that I never approved of, mistakes that I would never have tolerated, but mistakes for which I will have to take the responsibility."

AMP - C

SFC 16 Nov 73 [WXP]

Nixon meets with 78 House GOP members, who are impressed and relieved by "the candor, the obvious straight-forward honesty of his answers" (Rep. Dan Kuydendall, Tenn.). Rep. Paul McCloskey: "I was impressed by his state of physical and emotional health," adding that there was "an air of unreality" about the meeting and that Nixon was not asked hard questions. ~~Elizabeth~~

AMP - A

Confused reporting by WXP (as carried in SFC) seems to say that today there is also a pre-dinner meeting with Republican senators and WH dinner for 50 to 60 moderate to conservative Democratic congressmen.

AMP - D

By tomorrow Nixon will have met with all 234 House and Senate Republicans. Some Democrats (unnamed) think these meetings with congressmen are a crude attempt to influence "his prospective grand jurors" in impeachment proceedings.

SFC 16 Nov [WXP] Lou Gannon]

Nixon (fuel crisis) - Speed of presidential jet cut by 50 mph, reducing consumption from 2200 gallons of fuel per hour to 2000, no mention of reducing number of trips; back-up aircraft will not be used.

AMP - B

SFC 16 Nov 73 [AP]

Nixon (surrogates) - KPFA News: "The White House has set up a special surrogates program to defend President Nixon, and to counter what it views as unbalanced media coverage and an organized effort to promote impeachment," the surrogates to include young Eisenhowers, Anne Armstrong, Laird, Weinberberger, Bush, among others.

KPFA News 16 Nov 73 , SFC 17 Nov 73 [AP]

See entry 5 Nov 73

15 Nov 73 (2)

Jaworski - Deputy special Watergate prosecutor Henry Ruth, testifying before Senate Judiciary Committee, gives Jaworski unqualified endorsement. Calls for ~~better~~ guarantee against dismissal*, saying he and other prosecutors want new legislation to accomplish this. Agrees with some committee Republicans that such a bill would be immediately tested in the courts, possibly resulting in indictments being thrown out if a law setting up a court-appointed prosecutor were found to be unconstitutional.

SFC 16 Nov 73 [UPI]

*of special prosecutor

Krogh - Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, in WX, refuses to dismiss criminal charges against him, clearing the way for him to be tried on two counts of making false declarations, after Krogh's lawyers had argued (13 Nov?) that the charges should be thrown out because he was ordered to maintain the secrecy of the plumbers, even if it meant lying under oath.

SFC 16 Nov 73 [UPI]

Ehrlichman, Krogh, Young, Liddy - In Los Angeles, Judge Gordon Ringer refuses request to subpoena Nixon in pre-trial hearings in Fielding case, because he lacks jurisdiction to do so. However, tells defense lawyers they have the power to "issue a subpoena on a resident of California" in a criminal case. Nixon's voting address is San Clemente and he is legally a California resident.

SFC 16 Nov 73 [UPI]

Ford - Before he can read his opening statement, on first day of confirmation hearings before House Judiciary Committee, Rep. John Conyers (Dem-Mich) enters objection to taking up Ford's nomination before the committee acts on the 15 resolutions calling for Nixon's impeachment.

SFC 16 Nov [UPI]

Milk price supports - House and Senate records confirm Nixon's contention that he was under great Democratic pressure when he ordered the increase in milk price supports.

SFC 16 Nov 73 [WXP]

- Connally tells Ervin committee layers he never accepted money for his help in arranging higher milk support prices.

SFC 16 Nov 73 [AP]

15 Nov 73 (3)

Impeachment - House votes to spend additional million dollars on investigation of whether there are grounds for impeachment; original measure introduced 13 Nov had called for \$2 million. Rodino assures Republicans they will get one-third to hire their own staff.

- Newspaper Guild's international board passes resolution asking Congress to initiate immediate impeachment proceedings against Nixon; union membership takes no action.
SFC 16 Nov 73 [UPI, AP]

U.S.S.R. - Dr. Georgy Arbatov, described by Reuters as "the Kremlin's top expert on American affairs ... one of the brains behind the Soviet Union's new American policy," praises Nixon and Kissinger for "recognizing the realities" of the modern world. Reuters: "[This is] seen as indicating that despite Kremlin doubts about Mr. Nixon's future, Soviet leaders would like him to survive his current difficulties."

SFC 16 Nov 73 [Reuters]

Nixon (Ervin committee) - At conclusion of today's hearings Weicker asks Ervin whether Nixon has responded to committee's request for a meeting; Ervin says there has been no response.

SFC 16 Nov 73 [AP]

Ervin committee - Testimony by Russell DeYoung, of Goodyear Tire and Rubber, and George A. Spater, who retired from American Airlines shortly after he disclosed illegal contribution. Weicker asks Spater if it wasn't customary for corporate executives to be solicited for large contributions; Spater replies that the Nixon 1972 campaign was unique "because of the individual who made the solicitation [Kalmbach] and the amount involved [100,000 was requested, \$55,000 contributed]."

SFC 16 Nov 73

Tapes - Haldeman-Higby phone call, evening. See entry 4 Dec 73.

15 Nov 73 (4)

Gallup poll, taken 2-5 Nov 73 - Nixon's nine-week downtrend has leveled off at low point of 27 per cent approval, the same figure as that in previous poll (19-22 Oct); however, the figure for disapproval has risen, in the same period, from 60 to 63 per cent. Those polled were also asked to indicate how strongly they approve or disapprove of Nixon's handling of job as President; 15 per cent approve strongly, 44 per cent disapprove strongly.

SFC 15 Nov 73

Nixon (coup?) - Jack Anderson's column deals with contingency plans for the use of federal troops in case of a domestic crisis, drawn up to cope with riots and demonstrations in late 1960s. "Some high officials, aware of Mr. Nixon's belligerent attitude toward his Watergate critics, wonder whether he would use his emergency powers to hang on to the presidency if he should be faced with impeachment. Although the emergency plans are over four years old [sent to Nixon 19 May 69], they have been updated and reflect present policy."

SFC 15 Nov 73

15 Nov 73 AMP

Ⓐ - See NYT's account of what Nixon was told by Sen. Robert Packwood about his credibility and his recommendation for dealing with it: 1) disclose everything, "There can't be a missing tape accidentally disposed of by a janitor," and 2) hold an open-ended, no-time-limit news conference with only six or seven reporters, including specifically Dan Rather, "because the public must be convinced that you have opened yourself up to your harshest critics." Sen. William Scott urges Nixon to have some friends on any interview but Nixon says Packwood is right because "you don't win any games hitting soft balls."

SFC 17 Nov 73 [NYT]

Ⓑ - Jack Anderson says WH spokesman "told us" Nixon has no plans to curtail travel. Column says Nixon fleet consists of five jetliners, 15 helicopters, 11 jetstars, 23 limousines and a yacht. Return trip, WX-Key Biscayne, uses 8,000 gals of fuel.

SFC 19 Nov 73, Anderson

Ⓒ - NYT says that Nixon, during speech "[gestured] broadly with both arms."

NYT 16 Nov 73

(No date.)

Ⓓ - Is this the dinner mentioned in Time Magazine? "A dinner in the State Dining Room with 25 Democratic Congressmen, mostly from the South, was no smashing success either. One listener described Nixon as 'taut and extremely tense, gesturing wildly.'"

Time Magazine 10 Dec 73, p. 22

- " two more private audiences with deputations from Capitol Hill. Neither of these sessions went especially well. Mr. Nixon, for one thing, was relentlessly talky; some of the House Democrats - mostly sympathetic conservatives - said he came in looking heavily made-up, filibustered the first question for 21 minutes, took only five more all told and quit with a thicket of hands in the air waving for recognition."

Newsweek 10 Dec 73, p. 32