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Nixon and Disney World, Orlando, Florida; nationally televised, one hour.

He seems very nervous, under great pressure; his words rush together, his answers to questions are too long, he makes mistakes, "misspeaks" and doesn't realize it ("Haldeman and Ehrlichman are guilty until proved not guilty," he makes uncharacteristic extravagant gestures - giving the impression of desperation, of great anxiety to explain, of a man speaking against time. Very reminiscent of his apparent emotional state when speaking to VFW in New Orleans 20 Aug 73. Slight lurch when leaving podium, tugging at collar.

Audience seems guarded.

Nixon insists that he has provided all the tapes asked for by Ervin committee, ignoring the fact that the tapes in question are those subpoenaed by Cox.

- Asks twice to be asked question on milk fund, and when it finally is asked just as television time is up, orders television cameras kept on so that he can deal with it, then does not deal with the political contributions but confines his answer to a claim that the rise in the support price was due to pressure by Congress, including many Democrats.
 - "I'm not a crook."
- As personal step to save energy, ordered back-up plane not be used (on this trip?). "If this one goes down, it goes down, then they don't have to impeach."
- Will not resign; repeats statement he made 7 Nov that he will continue as President as long as heiszphyziczkiz statement he made 7 Nov that he will continue as President as long as heiszphyziczkiz statement he made 7 Nov that he will continue as President as long as heiszphyziczkiz statement he made 7 Nov that he will continue as President as long as heiszphyziczkiz he is "physically able" to do so.
 - (Above is personal impression following televised speech.) Cassette N-3.

Incident involving Nixon following APME meeting (unclear whether at airport in Orlando* or in Key Biseayne). From Wall Street Journal: "Approaching a portly, balding man standing beside his son at a fence, Mr. Nixon asked the man whether he was the boy's 'mother or grandmother.' Mystified by the question, the man finally answered that he was neither. 'Of course you're not,' said the President, and then he soundly slapped the man's face and walked on,

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[from previous page] according to two newsmen who witnessed the incident, 'The President slapped my daddy,' the boy was telling people in the air terminal later."

Wall Street Journal, 19 Nov 73, Fred L. Zimmerman - WXP says one of the reporters (either William Eaton of Chicago Daily News or Matt Cooney of Westinghouse Broadcasting Corp.) told others in the press pool 18 Nov of what he had seen; there had been no mention of it in pool report 17 Nov. Following "an angry debate in the White House Press Corps" it was included in pool report night of 18 Nov, which said these two members of the press pool "thought at the time [the encounter] was insignificant and still do." This pool report uses the term "a light slap" instead of that used by Wall Street Journal 19 Nov, "soundly slapped."

SFC 20 Nov 73 [WXP], Kilpatrick]

- From Newsweek: " Many of the newsmen covering Mr. Nixon's Florida trip thought the incident too insignificant to report, and in view of recent speculation about the President's mental health, some of them feared that any mention of the slap might be misconstrued. But the pool reporters did discuss the episode with colleagues. 'It was a hard slap,' said Matthew Cooney of Westinghouse 'I saw the man's Broadcasting, another member of the pool. face move. 1 The Wall Street Journal's Fred Zimmerman asked for a demonstration, so both William Eaton and Cooney slapped him as hard as they thought the President had struck Kleizo. 'I felt I had been soundly slapped by Eaton, and Cooney slapped me even harder, ' Zimmerman remarked later. Accordingly, he wrote an insert for his Monday-morning story reporting that Mr. Nixon had 'soundly slapped' a man at McCoy Air Force Base .

"... Even reporters who judged the 'slap-tap' affair too inconsequential to publish thought that it should have been included in the original pool report. The decision not to reflects what one newsman describes as 'a genuine reluctance in this press corps to write anything which bears on the President's mental capacities.' But White House reporters certainly are not unaware of the questions that are being asked about the state of Mr. Nixon's

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emotions under the strains of Watergate. Most of them, in
fact, are quietly squirreling away instances of quirky
Presidential behavior. Debates wax and wane (out of
print) on the significance of his slurred words, jumbled
syntax and flailing gestures and of such episodes as the
now-famous shoving of Ronald Ziegler last August. To some
degree, the press has been censoring itself on a delicate
subject, and perhaps it should, so long as the evidence is
inconclusive. "

Newsweek, 3 Dec 73; NYT 20 Nov 73, Apple

Cox (impeachment) - At news conference held at his home, Cox says he will not take a stand on the question of impeachment. "I can't properly answer that without seeming to give an answer based on something that I may know as a result of the work I did."

Says that while the tapes are a dramatic feature, there are other documents in the WH just as important as the tapes.

SFEX 18 Nov 73 [Ex News Svcs]

Gurney - "Trace dash to Gurney's Own Safe." SFEx 18 Nov 73 [Knight News Svc]

(17 Nov 73) AMP

A- Nixon says he paid only "nominal amounts" of federal income taxes in 1970 and 1971 because of large deductions resulting from his giving vice presidential papers to the National Archives, following the suggestion of President Johnson. See article by Eileen Shanahan, showing how this could not have been possible, and on other aspects of his statement on his taxes.

SFC 19 Nov 73 [NYT], Eileen Shanahan

B- See "Nixon Statements and the Record," by James M. Naughton, "a point-by-point comparison of Mr. Nixon's statements and details previously on the public record, as well as a discussion of some questions raised by the President's answers."

NYT 20 Nov 73, James M. Naughton

- C- "Physically able." See entry 7 Nov.
- D See also Nixon shoving of Ziegler before appearance at VFW convention, New Orleans Entry 20 Aug 73.
- (E- Text, Congressional Quarterly, vol. II on Watergate, p. 152.