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according to two newsmen who witnessed the incident, 'The President slapped my daddy,' the boy was telling people in the air terminal later." AMP - D

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 Broadcasting, another member of the pool. 'I saw the man's face move.' 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 reflect 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 Cash to Gurney's Own Safe."

SFEx 18 Nov 73 [Knight News Svc]

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(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.