

25 Nov 73 ①

(3 Dec) in file)

Nixon's pneumonia - Newsweek in current edition/says Nixon's viral pneumonia was more serious than White House bulletins indicated;~~and~~*that he was coughing blood before going to the hospital 12 Jul, and that his condition "scared hell" out of his White House visitors.

SFC 26 Nov 73 [Reuters]

*quotes "a top official" as saying

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Tapes - LATimes, in undated story, says unnamed high administration source says Rose Mary Woods is prepared to testify that she erased 18-minute segment of tape of Nixon-Haldeman conversation 20 Jun 72; official says he presumes it was done accidentally. Story says any contention by her that erasure was accidental will result in intense questioning by prosecution because of her testimony 8 Nov, in which she insisted she had no difficulty in understanding the instructions for operating the machine she was using and would not have pushed the erasure button by mistake. Story refers to a report in NYT of interview with audio technician of long experience with tape recorders, who said that, barring some highly unusual malfunction in the machine, it would have been very difficult to wipe out such a long passage by mistake, and that most recorders are designed to prevent this, even when operated by novices.

LATimes says that the day following Buzhardt's disclosure of 18-minute defect in the tape, Miss Woods decided to consult "an outside lawyer." That being Thanksgiving day* his office would have been closed, but she seems to have been able to arrange a meeting that day, since story says she met with him "again" 24 Nov. The lawyer is Charles S. Rhyne, a friend and former law school classmate of Nixon's at Duke University.

SFC 26 Nov [LATimes]

*(22 Nov)

"Vesco Link to Drug Deal Reported" - NYT says an undercover agent, Frank Peroff, has told Ervin committee investigators (no date) that for six months he supplied information to federal agencies about a plan to smuggle 100 kilograms of heroin, and that when he notified them that he had been told Vesco was to provide \$300,000 to buy it, government support "of the probe" including use of an airplane, was withdrawn. NYT says Peroff had no specific proof Vesco was involved, that he simply passed on information he said was given to

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him by Conrad Bouchard of Montreal.

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Campaign contribution from Seafarers International Union of North America - Time magazine says Jaworski investigators are looking into \$100,000 contribution, that the same day the contribution went to CREP the union borrowed the same amount from Chemical Bank of New York, and that "no loan would have been necessary if the money had come from voluntary contributions by members as required by law. Moreover, the Nixon committee waited three months to report the union's contribution, though the law clearly states that donations must be reported within 48 hours of receipt."

SFC 26 Nov 73 [UPI]

Vietnam - Viet Cong accuse U.S. Air Force of making illegal flights over its territory in Quang Tri Province and the central highlands, and demand an end to what it calls a "brazen violation" of Paris cease-fire agreement. U.S. embassy spokesman, Saigon, admits the flights but says, "The United States is scrupulously not violating the Paris agreement [which bans American military operations in South Vietnam]. The SR-71s are unarmed."

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Impeachment - Two columns on impeachment.

William Rusher: "The fact that the Constitution uses treason and bribery as illustrations of the kind of thing it has in mind ... rather strongly suggests that the founding fathers were thinking of real crimes, rather than such esoteric shortcomings as a 'loss of credibility' or an all-time low in the Gallup Poll. The truth is that nobody knows for sure what it takes to remove a president. But whatever might technically suffice, the impeachment lobby in Washington knows better than to suppose it can whoop some jerry-built impeachment of Richard Nixon through the present Congress. The mood in Congress ... is somber, but far from homicidal."

Dick Nolan: "If President Nixon has made one thing clear it is that he must be impeached before anything is made clear. Impeachment is the formal laying of charges ... for full and fair trial before the Senate of the United States. Yet you continually hear people saying, 'Why should Nixon be impeached? Nobody's proved a thing!' The charges come first. The proof, if any, follows. And the determination has only to do with whether or not the incumbent President is fit to hold that office."

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Ⓐ - Denied by Dr. Tkach; see entry 4 Dec 73.

Ⓑ - See entry 16 May 74, Vesco (heroin).
27 Nov 73, Vesco, WH denies
17 Jul 74, Vesco, Attempted break-in