

26 Nov 73 (1)

Tapes - WH turns over to ^{court} ~~WH~~ tapes and 22-page summary, AMP-D
WH lawyers say 18-minute defect* (entry 21 Nov) "was caused by the depression of a record button during the process of reviewing the tape, possibly while the recorder was in the proximity of an electric typewriter and a high-intensity ~~za~~ lamp" at Miss Woods' desk.

Miss Woods testifies that through some "terrible mistake" she pressed the "record" button on the machine she was using when she turned around to answer the phone (1 Oct), and that while on the phone she must have kept her foot on the foot pedal. Says she thought she had been on the phone only about 5½ minutes, not the 18 minutes of the gap in the tape. Says she told Nixon of the error minutes after it occurred and that he assured her it did not matter because "that's not one of the subpoenaed tapes." Says the last thing she heard on the tape was a chat between Nixon and Haldeman about a trip to the West, including a few words about Ely, Nevada, where Mrs. Nixon was born. WXP points out that "Notes taken by Haldeman indicate that the first topic discussed after the exchange about Ely was the Watergate case."

Miss Woods testified on 8 Nov that she had spent more than 30 hours trying to transcribe a meeting listed on WH logs as lasting 90 minutes. The subpoenaed tape covers a meeting among Nixon, Ehrlichman and Haldeman, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "(time approximate)"; WH logs show Haldeman was present for the last 90 minutes; list of subpoenaed tapes shows no other meetings of 90 minutes. AMP-B

Today Miss Woods says she worked only on the portion of ~~xxxxxx~~ the tape involving Nixon and Ehrlichman, and had never tried to transcribe the session with Haldeman because Haig called her at Camp David on the morning of 29 Sep to tell her that "the second part [the meeting with Haldeman] was not subpoenaed." WH lawyers say today (in court?) that ~~za~~ there is nothing on the tape of this meeting, as it now exists, that relates to Watergate besides the 55-minute session between Nixon and Ehrlichman. AMP A, C

Miss Woods is accompanied to court by her own lawyer, Charles S. Rhyne, and as she is called to the stand is warned by the prosecutors that anything she says may be used against her. WXP describes her as "far more subdued" than when she testified previously.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [WXP]

*in tape of 20 Jun 72 (2)

26 Nov 73 (2)

Tapes - Carl Bennett, service manager for Martel Electronic Sales Inc. which markets the recorder used by Miss Woods in transcribing the tapes, says the chances that she could have inadvertently erased 18 minutes of a tape are "very, very low" because of the way the recorder is designed. Describes the German-made Uher 5000 model as "a professional piece of gear" selling for \$500. See story for ~~other~~ additional comment by him.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [WXP]

Jaworski

Prosecutor's office - WH accuses prosecutor's office of responsibility for two news leaks since Jaworski succeeded Cox, Warren describing one leak as "staggering" but saying he has no evidence that Jaworski personally was responsible for the leaks. Warren describes one leak as Evans and Novak column published today which says that Buzhardt went to Jaworski's office 21 Nov to ask for a delay in releasing the news that a segment of tape of 20 Jun is ~~obliterated~~ obliterated; Jaworski refused and the matter was disclosed in court the same day. The second complaint is against a report in current issue of Time magazine that Jaworski's office is investigating a \$100,000 contribution by Seafarers International Union to re-election campaign.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [WXP]

Nixon, meeting with six senators (only three are named in story, which describes the meeting as "private ... one of a series Mr. Nixon has been holding with all Republican and some Democratic congressmen to discuss the Watergate scandal and other issues"). Sen. Bennett J. Johnston Jr. (Dem-La.) says Nixon promised to make public later this week "relevant" income tax returns and indicated ~~that~~ disclosure will be of complete returns.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [AP]

Nixon (support) - Members of Orange County Republican Central Committee unanimously endorse resolution supporting Nixon in his refusal to resign.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [UPI]

26 Nov 73 (3)

Ervin committee - Dash says committee will be asked to suspend public hearings to allow more time for investigation, says reason for this is failure of WH to produce documents needed and reluctance of some key officials of Hughes Tool Company to cooperate; documents relate to milk fund, and ~~executives of~~ Hughes executives have been subpoenaed to testify about \$100,000 given to Rebozo. Dash says committee's investigation is in no way considered closed.

Unnamed "source close to the committee's Republican minority" disputes Dash's explanation for asking for delay, says "Dash and the staff are ... trying to blame everyone else for their own failure."

SFC 27 Nov 73 [AP]

Nixon addresses convention of Seafarers International Union, WX; story describes him as "confident, wise-cracking," and "in an expansive and good-humored mood." See clipping for samples of Nixon "jokes."

SFC 27 Nov 73 [WXP]

Kissinger - ~~in updated story~~ NYT says Kissinger has said privately (no date) that he is "virtually certain" his telephone was tapped at some point since he joined Nixon administration, according to a former White House associate (unnamed). Kissinger reportedly made the remark shortly before he was confirmed as Secretary of State. Associate said Kissinger would not elaborate on the basis for his suspicions.

"Last week" Kissinger denied through State Department spokesman that he had ever expressed such a belief to anyone. Told of Kissinger's "total" rejection of his account, the associate replied that he would stand behind his version of the conversation.

SFC 26 Nov [NYT]

/Nixon
Haldeman/Ehrlichman/- Charles McCabe: "Let us consider the famed Watergate tapes. If you keep your eyes on two things, and never let them stray, you will find the inner consistency of all the President's tactical turnings and follies. These have outwardly puzzled so many of us.

(Cont'd

(4)

26 Nov 73 (4)

[from preceding page]

These two things are the living, physical presence of two men: H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman. These are the two men, known to be his greatest loyalists, who can nail Mr. Nixon to the mast. There is just so far even absolute personal loyalty can go. Men like H. and E. don't go to the penitentiary for it. "

SFC 26 Nov 73, Charles McCabe

Uher tape recorder - see entry, Tapes, Carl Bennett

(26 Nov 73) AMP

(A) - Judge Sirica is disturbed by the fact that Miss Woods did not mention the 18-minute gap when she first testified 8 Nov, interrupts several times from the bench to question her about it.* (See clipping.)

(B) - ~~Sax&Mx~~ Miss Woods says today she had never listened to that portion of the tape in which the gap occurs, and has no idea what it might have contained. LATimes:
"In her November 8 testimony, Miss Woods discussed the Haldeman-Nixon conversation as if it were part of a discussion also involving ... Ehrlichman "
SFC 26 Nov 73 [LATimes]

(C) - Ben-Veniste introduces evidence (29 Nov) to show that Miss Woods had in her possession nine WH recordings until today, when at 8:30 a.m. she turned them in to Gen. John Bennett, who is in charge of the tape library. NYT says the dates of the conversations covered in these recordings "all seem to coincide with the period of time when, [according to Dean's testimony,] the original Watergate defendants were demanding clemency."
SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT]

* (D) - "When Sirica asked Miss Woods ... why she had not told him on November 8 about the gap, she said that no one had asked her and that she ^{had} believed then that the tape recording in question ... was not subpoenaed."
SFC 3 Dec 73 [NYT]

(D) - including original tape of 20 Jun 72. See entry 13 Nov 73, "Tape, 20 Jun 72 ... "