

28 Nov 73 (1)

Tapes - Buzhardt testifies in Sirica's court that there are "a number" of blank sections lasting several minutes each on the subpoenaed tapes; story does not say on how many of the tapes and does not give their dates. This evening Warren says the "spaces" described by Buzhardt are simply blank spaces rather than "gaps" in which parts of conversations are obliterated. Warren: "On the seven subpoenaed conversations, with the exception of the 18-minute gap, those seven subpoenaed conversations are intact."

SFC 29 Nov 73 [NYT]

Nixon - WH officials say Nixon plans to accelerate "Operation Candor" this week, releasing information to refute allegations against him. Warren: "It will be complete information and it will lay to rest all the misconceptions that have grown over the past months." ~~Says~~ Another WH aide says first packet of materials will contain information on Nixon's taxes and personal finances. Story seems to imply this information will be released only to individual members of Congress, to governors and other officials.

The material is being prepared with the help of H. Chapman Rose, "a Cleveland attorney and long-standing Nixon associate," and Kenneth Gemmill, "a Philadelphia lawyer who has handled some of Mr. Nixon's financial transactions."

SFC 29 Nov 73 [UPI]

Saxbe - Senate approves bill designed to remove constitutional barrier to Saxbe's nomination, reducing the salary of the attorney general to the level which prevailed before the Senate approved a pay increase for cabinet officers in Feb 69. The vote is 75 to 16.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd has led opposition to the bill, denouncing it as "legislative legerdemain. .... The Constitutional prohibition against the appointment of Mr. Saxbe is complete, final, absolute, and beyond remedy by legislation enacted by a majority of both houses."

Senate approves, 87 to 0, an amendment by Byrd which would expedite any court challenge of the constitutionality of Saxbe's appointment; Byrd says there is "little doubt" there will be such a challenge.

SFC 29 Nov 73 [NYT]

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Impeachment - Sen. George McGovern calls for Nixon's impeachment (no date, presumably today), saying the public can no longer support an administration that "offers up a lie a week."

SFC 29 Nov 73 [AP]

Ford, speaking before convention of American Life Insurance Association, pledges a "hard-nosed" approach in revamping Great Society programs of the 1960s "upon which we had squandered so much national treasure." Story says he is referring to such programs as aid to education and stepped-up spending on health and welfare.

SFC 29 Nov 73 [UPI]

Haig - See article on Haig's increasing involvement in Nixon's ~~reaction~~<sup>\*\*</sup> to Watergate, based partly on interview by Laurence Stern 24 Nov. (No indication whether Haig spoke only with Stern, or whether this was a general intv.).

Asked what might be the general outcome of the Watergate campaign (from context, what Haig hopes to accomplish), he says, "To contribute to national sanity. To restore a sense of confidence in the office (the voice lingers on that word and the eyes seem to ask if you got it) of the presidency ...." Stern says of Haig ~~press conference~~<sup>act</sup> that he has "that one increasingly rare attribute in the scandal-ridden White House atmosphere - deniability."

"Haig now claims that his now-famous injunction to Ruckelshaus - 'Your commander in chief has given you an order' - has been quoted out of context in a way that portrays him as a mindless martinet, [and says] 'I've never used that kind of language.'" Story gives example of the same expression used by Haig on another occasion, to another man. ~~AMP - A~~

Stern says of Haig's strong implication that Richardson lied about his role in Cox dismissal\* that "he went so far ... as to suggest that Richardson reversed himself at the last minute on the issue of Cox's dismissal as a political ploy aimed at winning the Massachusetts governorship."

WXP 28 Nov 73, Laurence Stern

\*See entry 18 Nov 73

\*\* counter-attack

(28 Nov 73) AMP

① - (William Watts, one of Kissinger's aides on NSC, just before U.S. military "incursion" in Cambodia: "You have an order from your commander in chief. You can't refuse it.")