

29 Nov 73 ①

AMP - A

Tapes - Buzhardt testifies at tape hearing that the official WH explanation of the 18-minute gap in tape of 20 Jun 72 (the explanation he had given the court 26 Nov) actually was "not a real certainty" but, instead, "just a possibility," and that when he had given his earlier explanation it was only as "a matter of belief." NYT: "The disclosure ... that the White House explanation was 'just a possibility' took many spectators by surprise for it had seemed clear that the White House meant to place on Miss Woods the full blame for the 18-minute gap."

Buzhardt, "after repeating the contention that the White House first learned of the full extent of the 18-minute gap on November 14," \*says he and others made a number of "tests" after that date, trying to duplicate on a tape the buzzing sound heard during the "gap." The most recent of the tests was made yesterday. "In one of his tests [Buzhardt] was able to duplicate the sound <sup>AREA</sup> - and this duplication, he indicated, without explaining why [and without having "interrogated" her], apparently contributed to his 'belief' that Miss Woods did indeed cause the [entire?] gap."

Ben-Veniste introduces evidence to show that Miss Woods had in her possession nine WH recordings until 26 Nov, when at 8:30 a.m. she turned them in to Gen. 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]

\*Miss Woods has testified (entry 26 Nov) she told Nixon of this 1 Oct; perhaps "full extent" is the point Buzhardt is making here.

- Miss Woods worked on tape of 20 Jun 72 while at Camp David, 28 and 29 Sep 73 (Entry 8 Nov). Worked on it again at WH 1 Oct, the day Bull brought her a high fidelity recorder (clipping, SFC/NYT 29 Nov). Did Bull, who testified he took a number of tapes to Camp David, also bring all of them back, returning this one of 20 Jun to Miss Woods when he delivered the recorder? Or was it in her possession 30 Sep (Sunday), a date which is not accounted for?

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No indication Buzhardt has, or produced, test tape to  
prove this.

29 Nov 73 (2)

Nixon (finances) - Florida state attorney Richard Gerstein says he is investigating allegation that Nixon once had a \$100,000 certificate of deposit in Rebozo's Key Biscayne Bank; confirms story in Miami Herald that he has subpoenaed any records the bank has of Nixon's personal finances. Herald says subpoena was issued after Dade County prosecutor's office took testimony from former bank officers Richard Stearns and Franklin DeBoer, and that Stearns is believed to have told Gerstein's office of the certificate of interest.

Story by AP also tells of a \$10,000 campaign contribution deposited in the bank "days before" 7 Apr 72 deadline requiring disclosure of contributions, and says an attorney for Rebozo, William Frates, told the Herald the account was opened for a single contribution from an unidentified donor.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [AP]

Milk fund - Justice Department says Nixon has waived executive privilege for documents on milk industry contributions (no date), and that it has turned these over to Jaworski. Justice Department official refuses to describe these, saying WH still claims executive privilege over them in other litigation, but does say the material does not include tape recordings.

NYT says it has been reported recently (no date) that a representative of one of the co-ops, AMPI, in Aug 69, delivered \$100,000 to Kalmbach.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT]

Buzhardt - Ziegler (described by NYT as having "emerged in recent weeks as one of [Nixon's] closest advisers"), at press briefing appears to indicate "a decline in the status of ... Buzhardt. .... Asked whether the President was dissatisfied with Buzhardt's work, Ziegler replied obliquely, remarking that he did not want to express 'dissatisfaction with the performance of any individual. .... But Ziegler said the White House ~~staff~~ legal staff has been carrying a very heavy work load that led 'to some mistakes.' He mentioned as an example the staff's failure to discover until November 14 exactly which Watergate tapes had been subpoenaed earlier."

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[from preceding page]

Buzhardt tells newsmen later that "I have no plans to resign" and says that as far as he knows he still is WH counsel in charge of Watergate legal matters.

NYT says Ziegler's veiled remarks appear to add up to a demotion for Buzhardt, that other WH sources say control of the case is expected to pass in the next few days to Judge John J. Sullivan of Illinois appellate court, who is already working at EOB. Sullivan is a Democrat who has known Nixon since his Navy days.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT]

Special prosecutor's staff is bitterly attacked by Ziegler at news briefing (preceding entry). Ziegler says Jaworski is "a very respected man, a very fair man," but says the staff has displayed an "ingrained suspicion and visceral dislike for this President and this administration." (No amplification.)

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT]

Plumbers unit - AP says WH has tried to block investigation into unit's activities by telling federal investigators they might put a foreign agent's life in danger. See clipping for details. KPFA News says Chicago Tribune reports today that the agent the WH is supposedly trying to protect is no longer in active service.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [AP]

KPFA News, transcript

Chapin is indicted on four counts of perjury, all relating to statements he made to the grand jury in April about ~~Segretti~~ his dealings with Segretti.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT]

Sturgis is found guilty, in Miami, of conspiracy and transportation of stolen cars to México in 1968.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [AP]

Ford is confirmed by House Judiciary Committee, 29 to 8. Opposition to him is led by two Democrats (California),

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[from preceding page]  
Don Edwards and Jerome Waldie, who say they will give their reasons during floor debate 6 Dec.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [LATimes]

Wallace - NYT says a major highway funds scandal is threatening Wallace's political future. See story for details.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT]

Laird says he plans to resign as Nixon's chief domestic adviser after Ford assumes vice presidency.

Says he thinks the latest tape revelations have damaged Nixon, but sees no majority yet in the House for support of move to impeach him.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [UPI]

Rufus Edmisten says Ervin committee intends to subpoena a 12-hour-long tape made by Nixon 4 May, described by Edmisten as a compilation of all the other subpoenaed tapes. According to Edmisten, this should contain the 18-minute portion supposedly obliterated by Miss Woods.

(KFFA News 30<sup>NOV</sup> says Edmisten remarks were made "today" but WXP gives the date as Thursday [29 Nov], and the place as Sweet Briar College, Lynchburg, Va.)

KFFA News 30 Nov 73, transcript

SFC 1 Dec 73 [WXP]

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Tapes - Joseph Kraft: "President Nixon is past worrying about credibility on Watergate. Now he seeks mainly to guard against criminal prosecution. That is the conclusion which emerges from the testimony of his secretary, Rose Mary Woods, in the case of the erased White House tape. For her statement, which falls apart as an account of what actually happened, hangs beautifully together as a defense against charges of obstructing justice..... There is one thing harder to do than to believe that story. The harder thing is to prove that it is false. For by a strange miracle, all the questions raised about the episode run into the ground. .... The only reasonable conclusion is that disclosure of the taped material would have incriminated the President and Haldeman. That the President has the brass to hide behind such an absurd story only reinforces the impression that there is no way to bring him to account short of impeachment."

WXP 29 Nov 73, Joseph Kraft

(29 Nov 73) AMP

(A) Copy of tape of 20 Jun 72 turned over to Sirica today.  
Original had been given him 26 Nov 73.  
See entry 13 Nov, "Tape, 20 Jun 72 ... "