

30 Nov 73 (1)

Tapes - No hearings before Sirica today,*but court releases evidence indicating there may be technical problems with two other tapes. KPFA: "The evidence released by the court were two hand-written notes taken by Gen. John Bennett ... which showed there were, quote, 'two aborts' on the tapes of conversations between Nixon and ... Dean. Those tapes were made on [15 Sep 72 and 13 Mar 73]. Dean told the Senate Watergate committee that on both those occasions he discussed the cover-up with Nixon. Anyway, the word 'abort' was not explained, although Bennett's notes showed that while laboratory technicians were making copies of the two tapes, the two tapes were, quote, 'tested unsuccessfully.' The same notes indicate, quote, 'Did test in R's office. No joy.' [No date.] Further, on [14 Nov] Bennett wrote that he entered the White House vault and, quote, 'deposited three aborted tapes, extracted briefcase of contents except three aborts left in safe.' No date for third 'abort.'"

KPFA News 30 Nov 73, transcript

*Hearing postponed until 4 Dec because Haig not available to testify; Garment says Haig is busy with other WH matters.

SFC 1 Dec 73 [LATimes]

Watergate grand jury - Nixon signs bill extending life of the jury for six months and allows an additional six-month extension to 4 Dec 74 at Sirica's discretion. A-112-C

SFC 1 Dec 73 [UPI]

War powers bill*(loophole?) - Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger says U.S. officials are studying the bill to see whether it would permit the U.S. to resume bombing "if Hanoi were to misjudge the situation and if they were to launch an assault of the kind that occurred in May, 1972." Schlesinger says the question is "being looked into" by experts at the State Department. Spokesman for State Department says that under no circumstances should the conclusion be drawn that the government intends to re-intervene in Vietnam.

SFC 1 Dec 73 [AP], filed Nix Ad

*Vetoed by Nixon, overridden by Congress 7 Nov 73 (filed Congress)

30 Nov 73 (2)

Tapes - Panel of six experts in computer and recording technology begins study of tapes. The first one to be tested is that of 20 Jun 72, which will be run through a series of "signal enhancement" tests in an attempt to restore erased portions. "By filtering and amplifying signals left on the erased portions, it is possible to recreate original conversations with the aid of computers, according to acoustics experts. This can be accomplished, according to the experts, as long as the tape has not been repeatedly passed through a strong magnetic field."

The reel was taken by six armed marshals by train/last night to New York, in a magnetic-proof steel box, and delivered to the Federal Scientific Corporation. All tapes taken there will be accompanied by six marshals and while they are being examined, three marshals will be present at all times. Today a WH representative, Richard Hauser, is also present.

Also taken to New York are Miss Woods' electric typewriter and a high intensity lamp which had been on her desk 1 Oct.

Some panel members estimate it may take six weeks or more to complete all of the tests. For names, entry 21 Nov.

SFC 1 Dec 73 [WXP]

Buzhardt - White House says Buzhardt remains in charge of Watergate "defense" (WXP's term), although changes are being made in counsel's office. Warren, at press briefing, at first says Buzhardt "still is working" in the office, but after receiving a note, apologizes and says Buzhardt is in charge.* For list of staff in counsel's office, see clipping.

Statement on staff list says H. Chapman Rose, Kenneth W. Gemmill and John J. Sullivan "have assisted the White House counsel's office periodically, without compensation." Warren says Sullivan volunteered to help the legal staff and will work in an administrative way in recruiting legal talent. Sullivan is resigning from Illinois Court of Appeals. (On Sullivan resigning, see entry 3 Dec.)

SFC 1 Dec 73 [WXP]

*Warren gives as reason for his mistake the fact that he was away from the WH, because he was ill, 29 Nov; see Ziegler's comment on Buzhardt 29 Nov (Buzhardt entry).

30 Nov 73 (3)

Edmisten - Warren, at press briefing, denounces Edmisten for having said WH had re-recorded on one tape all of the subpoenaed tapes (entry 29 Nov). Denies that any new recordings have been made, says that when Nixon listened to the original tapes he used earphones. ~~and~~ With earphones, the system still in use at the time could not have picked up the playing of the tapes. (Unclear whether last sentence is Warren's or WXP's.)

Edmisten, told of Warren's comment, says, "I think I had misinformation that there was a tape made of the tapes the President had listened to. If I made a mistake, I'm sorry."

SFC 1 Dec 73 [WXP]

Krogh pleads guilty to a civil rights charge (seven overt acts constituting "conspiracy against rights of citizens," specifically the rights of Dr. Lewis Fielding in break-in of his office). All other charges against him are dropped, and Krogh tells Judge Gessell (~~Gesell?~~) that he intends to cooperate with Watergate special prosecutor; insists that he be sentenced before offering any cooperation so it will not look as though he is seeking any favors from the courts for his cooperation. In short statement read in court says national security would have been the basis of his defense, but now feels that what was done in "the Ellsberg operation" was in violation of "the paramount importance of the rights of the individual. I don't want to be associated with that violation any longer by attempting to defend it."

- Los Angeles District Attorney's office says it will move 3 Dec to have all charges against Krogh dismissed, clearing the way for him to testify in Ehrlichman's trial. D.A. says no deal has been made with Krogh; deputy D.A. says office has been assured the Krogh will be available as a state witness.

SFC 1 Dec 73 [NYT; UPI]

Buzhardt - Court records (released today?) show that Buzhardt removed from WH vault tapes of 25 May and 12 Jun 72, dates prior to Watergate break-in; there is nothing in the documents to indicate the purpose of his review of these tapes.

SFC 1 Dec 73 [LATimes]

(4)

30 Nov 73 (4)

Campaign contributions - Jack Anderson: "Confidential Senate Watergate documents show that ... Federal Maritime chairwoman Helen Bentley collected at least \$20,000 in donations for the Nixon campaign [1972] from the shipping industry she is supposed to regulate." (Names involved, Captain Leo Berger and Peter Constatas, partners in Avon Steamships, Lake Success.)

SFC 30 Nov 73, Jack Anderson

McCord - Letter from him to Judge Sirica is filed in court today. Letter is handwritten, dated 21 Nov, and thanks Sirica "for the justice and mercy which you have shown me and the other defendants. I believe the sentences were fair and just and that consideration was shown to each of us." McCord and the others were sentenced 9 Nov 73.

SFC 1 Dec 73 [AP]

Nixon (finances) - Nixon still owns a \$100,000 certificate of deposit purchased 9 Sep 69 from Rebozo's bank; purchase was made for six-month term and has been renewed periodically.* Sep 69 was four months after Nixon sold his New York City apartment for a profit of \$62,140, and five months after he sold his interest in a real estate corporation known as Fisher's Island Inc. for a profit of \$185,891; total, \$248,031.

AMP-D *AMP-B

SFC 1 Dec 73, AP

WH counsel's office - List as supplied by Warren, which includes those who assist the counsel's office, without compensation: H. Chapman Rose, Kenneth W. Gemmill and John J. Sullivan.

See also WXP 8 Nov 73 for other names.

WXP 1 Dec 73

Richard M. Gerstein - See entry, Nixon, finances. AMP-D

(30 Nov 73) AMP

Ⓐ - Apparently ~~Warren~~ until Warren received the note he did not know that Buzhardt, as Newsweek says (10 Dec), had been "magically rehabilitated" overnight.
Newsweek 10 Dec 73

Ⓑ - Thomas Wakefield, bank vice president, denies any link between the certificate of deposit and the \$100,00 from Hughes.
SFC 1 Dec 73 [AB]

Ⓒ - See Congressional Quarterly, Watergate II, p. 102. A bill approved today by House Judiciary Committee gives the grand jury two extensions, not to exceed a total of 30 months (4 Dec 74). "The language of the bill was based on a title of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, an administration-backed bill, which authorized the creation of special grand juries with possible lives up to 36 months." The grand jury itself had requested the present extension.
Congressional Quarterly, Watergate II, p. 102.

Ⓓ - See entry 4 Oct 73, bugging of Democratic ... ; entry 14 Mar 75, IRS, Elsa Suarez. See Congressional Quarterly (W/gate book), which includes name of state attorney Richard M. Gerstein in its items on bugging of Democratic Convention (p. 337) and Nixon certificate of deposit (p. 457).