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Tapes - Sirica begins monitoring "exact copies" of WH tapes, spending four hours in "bug-proof" room, wearing earphones, with only his law clerk, Todd Christofferson, present; first tape monitored is that of 20 Jun 72. Under the appeals court order, Sirica will determine whether the tapes contain evidence which should be turned over to the Watergate grand jury, and what matters of national security, if any, should not be disclosed.

SFC 4 Dec 73 [UPI]

Tapes (Ervin committee subpoena) - House gives final approval to bill giving Sirica jurisdiction over Ervin committee subpoena of WH tapes. Bill was passed by Senate 9 Nov. House send bill on to White House.

SFC 4 Dec 73 [UPI]

Judge John J. Sullivan says he is resisting WH request that he leave the bench (Illinois Court of Appeals) to head a legal team to defend Nixon in impeachment proceedings if necessary. This would involve him in practice of law, which Illinois Constitution does not permit judges to do. His work for the WH so far has been only the "administrative" tasks connected with assembling lawyers to ~~relieve~~ relieve WH counsel.

SFC 4 Dec 73 [WXP]

Hughes-Rebozo money - At least 13 Hughes employees (not named in story) have begun talking to Ervin committee investigators, are reported to have answered under oath all questions put to them. Had previously refused to do so (entry 27 Nov, "Ervin committee ... "); present move may be to avoid contempt of ~~Congress~~ Congress action.

Committee has issued subpoena for 1,000 \$100 bills said to have been returned by Rebozo.

SFC 4 Dec [AP]

Krogh - Charges of burglary and conspiracy against him are dropped by Los Angeles District Attorney; remaining defendants are Ehrlichman, Young and Liddy. Krogh is expected to be the key witness for both the prosecution and the defense at their trial, not expected to take place before February.

SFC 4 Dec 73 [UPI]

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Milk fund - White House has decided to turn over to U.S. District Judge William B. Jones material asked for by Nader; actual surrender of the material may be made tomorrow. Justice Department attorney in the case, Irwin Goldblum, says WH continues to claim the material is protected by executive privilege and will ask Judge Jones to keep it secret.

The material consists of documents and a tape recording of meeting 23 Mar 71 among Nixon and top administration officials, which took place in the afternoon. This followed a meeting in the morning among Nixon and dairy industry representatives, also attended by administration economic and agricultural advisers. (SFC [WXP] 25 Oct 73, suggests that morning meeting was held in cabinet room and apparently not taped.) These meetings took place one day after the dairy industry made the first of many secret contributions, and two days before the administration reversed its decision not to increase federal support price for milk. Nader lawyers have said this abrupt policy change was estimated by dairy industry to be worth \$300 million to \$700 million to dairy farmers. (See entries, p. 3, p. 5.)

- Justice Department last week turned over documents in milk case to Jaworski (entry 29 Nov); says that material did not include any tapes.

SFC 4 Dec 73 [AP] (Another entry, this date.)

Nixon (finances) - Nixon calls in eight congressional Republicans to give them preview of personal financial records. (Sens. Griffin, Scott, Cotton, Tower; Reps. Anderson, Arends, Rhodes, ?) Nixon spends about 20 minutes at the meeting, which is then taken over by Harlow, Ziegler, Haig, Timmons, Gemmell, Rose. WH says it will make the information public sometime this week; Ziegler says it will include every expenditure Nixon has made since becoming President.

Anderson says one of the subjects of discussion was Nixon's donation of vice presidential papers. Congress prevented deductions for such contributions after Jul 69. Anderson says the lawyers at the meeting told him "there was physical delivery of the papers prior to July, 1969, and that they're willing to submit the question to arbitration."

SFC 3 Dec 73 [UPI]

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Impeachment - NYT, in undated story, says members of House Judiciary Committee are prepared, by a substantial majority, to recommend Nixon's impeachment if they find evidence of serious misconduct even if such misconduct falls short of criminal wrongdoing. Rep. Charles W. Wiggins of California, a member of the committee and "a constitutional scholar," says Nixon would be subject to impeachment for "conduct which, exposed to the light of day, produces moral outrage among the people that causes them to believe he is no longer fit to serve." Committee is composed of 21 Democrats and 17 Republicans.

Story says Judiciary committee will not get into the main part of its impeachment inquiry before next February and is not likely to reach a determination before next spring.

There are 16 resolutions of impeachment, filed following dismissal of Cox 20 Oct; story lists some of the grounds cited. (See also entry this date - Resignation.)

SFC 3 Dec 73 [NYT]

(Haldeman, Dean)

Milk fund/- Chicago Tribune says Haldeman and Dean decided in 1971 to keep secret the expenditures from dairy industry contributions, quotes from documents filed in U.S. District Court (Chicago? - unclear). The documents are transcripts of a meeting between Haldeman and Dean 18 May 71, about two months after milk price supports were increased, and were turned over to Ervin committee by Dean. The transcripts are cited by AMPI in effort to obtain more WH documents. AMPI, which has been charged with antitrust violations by Justice Department, says Nixon fund raisers asked for campaign contributions in return for dropping the suit.

SFC 3 Dec 73 [AP, Chicago] (Another entry, this date.)

Jill Volner profile in NYT says the Volners' WX apartment has been burgled twice, "most recently last week\* after her sharp exchanges with Miss Woods made headlines. The other time was last summer, when she was the first woman named to the special Watergate prosecution task force."

SFC 3 Dec 73 [NYT] \*See entry 27 Nov 73.

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Resignation - Joseph Alsop: "It begins to seem more and more possible that President Nixon will resign. There will soon be a Republican vice president to step into the President's shoes, and the forces pushing Mr. Nixon toward resigning are growing stronger and stronger. Some days ago, for instance, he received his staff's hair-raising report on the situation in the House Judiciary Committee. When the committee first began consideration of a bill of impeachment, a number of the senior House Democrats tried hard to arrange brief hearings and to achieve an early vote by the House as a whole. This would have favored the President greatly. But now White House staff members are unable to offer hope of such a result. Instead, they predict investigations and hearings by the House Judiciary Committee will spin out for nearly a year, until next October. .... The real question is whether the President will wish to put the country through two or more years, or even longer, of the same kind of wringer the country is in today. It seems more and more possible he will not wish to do so, simply because he is a genuinely patriotic man." (See also entry this date - Impeachment.)

SFC 3 Dec 73, Joseph Alsop

Key Biscayne - Jack Anderson gives details of Abplanalp's purchase of house from Mr. and Mrs. Perry O'Neal, arranged by Rebozo, and later leased by Abplanalp to the government. House is part of Key Biscayne compound.

SFC 3 Dec 73, Jack Anderson

Newsweek, on:

Nixon coughing blood (entry 25 Nov)

18-minute gap in tape

Operation Candor

"Now, Operation Richardson?"

"Politics: The Watergate Effect" (Gallup and Harris  
polls)

Ford nomination hearings

Slapping incident at Orlando, Fla.

"Answers That Raise Fresh Questions" - see following page

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Milk price supports - "No one doubted that the White House was under some pressure from Congress to raise milk-price subsidies. But given Mr. Nixon's willingness to go to the mat with a balky Congress on other extravagances, his sudden cave-in on milk came as a surprise. At the time, less than one-third of the Senate and roughly one-quarter of the House openly favored raising the price supports - not enough to pass a bill, let alone override a Presidential veto."

Newsweek 3 Dec 73, p. 27

Vice Presidential papers - "[Mr. Nixon] said he first learned of the possibility of a deduction for Vice Presidential papers in a meeting with Lyndon Johnson early in 1969; but last week [no date], former Internal Revenue Commissioner Sheldon S. Cohen said that two lawyers representing Mr. Nixon came to him before the Inauguration to talk about such gifts."

Newsweek 3 Dec 73, p. 27

Nixon (finances) - "The President has contradicted himself on the value of his equity in his New York law firm (\$45,000 in 1968; \$100,000 in Orlando [17 Nov] and on the value of his Park Avenue apartment (\$166,860 in 1968; \$326,000, \$300,000, and \$321,000 in later statements)."

Newsweek 3 Dec 73, p. 27

Campaign contributions - "As for Mr. Nixon's contention that corporate donors were misled by changes in the laws [some corporate contributions were "illegal because the law had been changed and apparently people didn't know it"], that seems highly unlikely; while there were changes in some technicalities, the law flatly banning corporate contributions has been in effect since 1907."

Newsweek 3 Dec 73, p. 27

Rebozo, Hughes contribution - "In an interview with Senate investigators last week [no date], Kenneth Whitaker, the FBI special agent in Miami and a friend of Rebozo's, said he had been unable to tell much about the money; he said the bills were not new, nor were their serial numbers sequential. Rebozo himself had said earlier that he had removed the original bank wrappings from the bills, replacing them with

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rubber bands. He did not say why.

Newsweek 3 Dec 73, p. 27

Gallup poll, taken 30 Nov through 3 Dec (published 13 Dec), shows slight rise in Nixon popularity: 31 per cent approval as compared to previous figure of 27 per cent, 2-5 Nov. The rise has been greatest in the south, up from 34 per cent, 2-5 Nov, to 41 per cent in latest survey; Gallup says this reflects Nixon's "decision to 'go public' on the Watergate issue, highlighted by his speeches and appearances in the South where he consistently met enthusiastic audiences."

SFC 13 Dec 73

- See also poll on whether Nixon should be compelled to leave office - 54 to 35 per cent No. Poll taken 30 Nov through 3 Dec, published 17 Dec.

SFC 17 Dec 73

Nixon (mental health) - "White House reporters certainly are not unaware of the questions that are being asked about the state of Mr. Nixon's emotions under the strains of Watergate. Most of them, in fact, are quietly squirreling away instances of quirky Presidential behavior. Debates wax and wane (out of print) on the significance of his slurred words, jumbled syntax and flailing gestures and of such episodes as the now-famous shoving of Ronald Ziegler last August."

Newsweek 3 Dec 73