

4 Dec 73 (1)

Tapes - Higby testifies in tape hearings about a phone conversation with Haldeman, then in California; no indication who initiated call. Says that in this conversation, 14 Nov, around noon, Haldeman (WXP's wording) "told him of the missing [18 $\frac{1}{4}$ -minute] segment." Implication of Post's story is that Haldeman already knew of the gap in the tape.** Higby: "I think he said it had been caused by Miss Woods." Higby says Haldeman might have first mentioned it to him in the course of another phone call on the evening of 15 Nov, but says he thinks it was "the day before." **

In the call of 15 Nov Haldeman instructed Higby to get Haldeman's notes for 20 Jun from Room 522, EOB, where they are kept with other sensitive Watergate-related files, guarded by the Secret Service.* (Post says this indicates Haldeman still has control of his files at the WH seven months after his resignation.) Haldeman's instructions were for Higby to see Haig before getting the notes, but not to give WH officials any of the notes without first reporting back to Haldeman with a summary of what they contained. Higby says he followed these instructions, that when he read the notes to Haldeman, Haldeman said "that's no problem," and (WXP's wording) "after getting the go-ahead from Haldeman" he turned the two pages of notes over to Haig and Buzhardt, who by then had arrived at Room 522.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [WXP]

* AMP - A
** AMP - B

Nixon (health) - Nixon is scheduled to have annual physical examination around mid-December.. Dr. Tkach says, in phone interview, that Nixon is "well - except at times I think he's tired."

Dr. Tkach says Nixon has no health problems whatsoever. Asked about report (Newsweek 3 Dec, entry 25 Nov) that Nixon was coughing blood before hospitalization in July for viral pneumonia, says there is "no truth whatsoever" to that report.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [AP]

4 Dec 73 (2)

Rebozo (Hughes money) - Chester C. Davis, a lawyer for Hughes, turns over to Ervin committee 1,000 hundred-dollar bills, supposedly the same ones given by Hughes to Rebozo and returned by him. These are xeroxed and returned to Davis. Serial numbers will be checked to determine if any were printed after the date in 1970 when Rebozo said he received the second installment.

NYT says Rebozo told Miami Herald (no date) there had actually been 1,001 bills, but Ervin says it is his understanding that only 1,000 had been turned over to the committee by Davis.

Davis's testimony today is before a closed session of the committee; had previously refused to testify except at public session. Meeting is attended by Ervin and Weicker and (a number?) of committee staff members.

Ervin says there is "very little doubt" that Rebozo will be called to testify at a public hearing when they resume after present adjournment.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [NYT]

Ervin committee - Senate approves resolution providing additional \$500,000 to committee, a total of \$1.5 million.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [UPI]

Tapes - Sen. Stennis, in phone interview, says he never agreed to ~~WH version~~ final WH version of "Stennis compromise,"* that he would authenticate a transcript to be given to the court in place of the tapes themselves. Says his understanding had been that he would authenticate only two copies, one for the WH and one for Ervin committee; "There was never any mention about the court. I wouldn't have done it if there was. No, no, I was once a judge and the courts can ask for what they want." Unnamed Stennis associate says (no date) Stennis was "surprised and somewhat flabbergasted" when he learned of what he considered the unilateral change in the compromise by the WH.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [Women's Wear Daily]

*19 Oct 73

(4 Dec 73) AMP

A- Higby testifies (NYT's wording) "that Haldeman ... had directed him by telephone on which documents to remove and did not disclose until two weeks ago [15 Nov?] the combination to the lock that secured the files."

SFC 6 Dec 73 [NYT] See entry 5 Dec, "Haldeman(files)"

B- "Haig said he told Haldeman of the gap that same night [15 Nov] in a phone call to California which Haig said he placed because no one at the White House could find the combination to the lock Haldeman had put on his closely guarded files. 'I told him we had a problem and what that problem was,' Haig said. 'I told him we should have that combination - at the White House and no place else.'"

WXP 6 Dec 73, Lardner

- Buzhardt (entry 14 Nov) and Powers (5 Dec?) say Buzhardt discovered the gap in tape the evening of 14 Nov.

WXP 6 Dec 73, Lardner