

6 Dec 73 ①

Tapes (sinister force) - Haig testifies at tape hearings about a WH meeting (of Watergate defense team?) on the evening of 20 Nov, says that at that point WH lawyers were convinced that Rose Mary Woods could not have caused (all?) of the two-toned humming noise on tape of 20 Jun 72. WXP: "As a result, he said, they discussed the possibility that 'perhaps there had been one tone applied by Miss Woods . . . and then perhaps some sinister force had come in and applied the other energy source and taken care of the information on that tape.'" * Says he told the lawyers they should find out who had been given access to the tape; WH records indicate that only Miss Woods and Stephen Bull were given access to it after it was subpoenaed in July.

Haig tells newsmen, after the hearing, that he now thinks Miss Woods was responsible for the entire erasure.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [WXP]

* 407 - 4

Tape hearings - At the conclusion of Haig's testimony the hearings are recessed indefinitely while audio experts continue their testing.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [WXP]

Mitchell-Stans trial - WH ~~has~~ agrees to turn over to Judge Lee Gagliardi a complete tape of Nixon-Dean conversation of 28 Feb 73, after Judge Gagliardi rejected as "not sufficient" a partial transcript he had been given. Gagliardi had indicated that unless he is provided with the complete tape, Dean, ~~cannot be~~ a prosecution witness, could be excluded from testifying at Mitchell-Stans trial. Federal prosecutor James Rayhill says he has been informed by Buzhardt that the tape will be turned over not later than 14 Dec to Judge Gagliardi, for his private examination. Trial is scheduled to begin 9 Jan. See entry 6 May 74, tape of 14 Apr 73.

Dean has testified (no date - before Ervin committee?) that the conversation ~~in question~~ included a question by Nixon as to whether Edward Nixon was involved in the financial affairs of Robert Vesco.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [UPI]

Vesco - See Mitchell-Stans entry, above, and later entry, this date.

Edward Nixon - See Mitchell-Stans entry, above.

6 Dec 73 (2)

Bork - Sen. William Proxmire files suit to force removal of Bork as acting attorney general, says suit is based on a law limiting to 30 days the term of a person temporarily filling a vacancy as head of an executive department, and that "it is insufferable that the attorney general, the nation's No. 1 law ~~office~~ enforcement officer, is not in compliance with the law." Department of Justice has said it is specifically exempted from the law.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [AP]

AMPI - Murray Chotiner and Marion E. Harrison, who shares his law offices with Chotiner, say they contacted Mitchell and Kleindienst to complain about antitrust suit against AMPI; Chotiner contacted Mitchell, Feb 72, and Harrison contacted Kleindienst Jun 72. Both say their recollections are hazy, but they believe they complained about the suddenness with which Justice Department brought the suit on 1 Feb 72. See entry 10 Sep 73.

Another lawyer working out of Harrison's offices, Patrick J. Hillings, originally pledged \$2million in dairy money to re-election campaign, which had been cut to \$1 million at the time of the suit.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [AP]

Vesco - Press office of Argentine judiciary announces that Vesco has been granted permission to live in Argentina and a guarantee that if he takes up residence there he will not be liable to extradition. Announcement says the ruling (on residence? extradition? both?) was issued by Federal Judge Luis Maria Rodriguez 22 Oct, but was not made public until today. See entry 22 Oct 73.

Statement quotes ruling by Rodríguez as saying that any U.S. extradition request against Vesco connected with Watergate scandal would be considered among the category of "common crimes connected with political crimes," a category not considered an extraditable offense under Argentine law.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [Reuters]

Colson returns to WH to attend a staff prayer breakfast, says he has "come to know Christ" since leaving the WH staff in March (10 Mar?).

SFC 7 Dec 73 [LATimes]

6 Dec 73 (3)

Hughes (F. Donald Nixon) - It was "learned" today that Ervin committee is investigating charges by Robert Maheu and John Meier that Donald Nixon interceded with Nixon to approve sale of Air West to Hughes*. Denied by Donald Nixon. Committee sources say that at this point the committee considers the claims of Maheu and Meier to be allegations, but that they and Donald Nixon will probably be called to testify next month when the hearings resume. This investigation is tied to the Hughes-Rebozo contribution.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [UPI]

*in 1969.

Gurney admits there was "wrongdoing" in campaign fund raising in his behalf, says he did not know it was going on and insists he personally did not engage in any wrongdoing; says he received none of the money.

SFC 7 Dec 73 [UPI]

Buzhardt - From article on his background and career: [In early 1969 was consultant to defense department, and shortly afterward a special assistant to Robert Froehlke, assistant secretary of defense.] "From the time he reached the Pentagon, Buzhardt found himself with one thorny problem after another - the handling of cases resulting from the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the leak of the Pentagon Papers, a congressional investigation of Army spying on civilians. He tangled with Senator Sam J. Ervin ... when he refused to allow several generals to testify at an Ervin investigation into Army spying activities."

SFC 7 Dec 73, LATimes, Rudy Abramson, WX

Carl Rizer, a special investigator for U.S. Senate Commerce committee in San Francisco who is on loan to Ervin committee, is involved in knifing and shooting incident in front of Federal Building; apparently an innocent bystander. See story for details.

SFC 7 Dec 73, Drew McKillips

Ford takes oath of office as Vice President, an hour after House completes action on nomination; vote is 387 to 35.

SFC 7 Dec 73 (Nominated 12 Oct 73.)

6 Dec 73 (4)

Rose Mary Woods - At swearing-in ceremony for Ford "Pat Nixon received the customary standing ovation accorded a First Lady by the gentlemen on the floor of the House when she entered the Executive Gallery. Pat had acknowledged their tribute and sat when they suddenly saw Rose Mary Woods descending the steps to sit in the row behind the Ford children. The still-standing members of Congress looking up at her burst into a bigger surge of applause than they had given Mrs. Nixon. It left everyone wondering - was this because they all thought she had been dealt a bum deal regarding the Watergate tapes?"

SFEx 16 Dec 73, Betty Beale column

White House (Jaworski) - NYT says change in WH attitude on special prosecutor's office, to one of greater cooperation, was first apparent today. See entry 12 Dec 73, Jaworski.

NYT 13 Dec 73, Ripley

(6 Dec 73) AMP

(A)- Dick Nolan: "Aha! At last we are getting somewhere. The most plausible explanation yet for all the strange things that have been happening to those Watergate tapes has been put forward by Alexander Haig, President Nixon's chief of staff. It is witchcraft. Them demons done it! "
SFExaminer 9 Dec 73, Dick Nolan