

26 Dec 73 ①

"Nixon Flies Commercial" to San Clemente; party of 25 completes the trip by limousine for the 70-mile drive from Los Angeles airport. WH says Nixon chose a commercial flight "to set an example for the American public" (see entry 20 Dec) and that he paid from his own pocket the fare for himself, wife and daughter (Tricia).

AP says "The President had tentatively planned to go to his Key Biscayne family home before Christmas but apparently decided he could not make that trip without using government aircraft."

SFC 27 Dec 73, AP

AMPI (Mitchell) - "[Mitchell] was twice urged by his antitrust chief [Richard W. McLaren] to approve a federal grand jury investigation of possible criminal violations by [AMPI], the Justice Department disclosed [today]." See story, which is much the same as the one covered by entry 12 Dec 73.

SFC 27 Dec 73 [AP]

American Revolution Bicentennial Commission - WH says chairman, David H. Mahoney, has resigned (no date), no reason given in story. Mahoney had been chairman for three years.

SFC 27 Dec 73

26 Dec 73 (2)

Gray - "A confidential FBI report apparently contradicts the testimony of L. Patrick Gray III last March that he had no knowledge of nearly 20 'national security' wiretaps that President Nixon had ordered on newsmen and officials of his administration. However, a copy of the confidential FBI report, obtained by the New York Times, indicates that Gray, while the bureau's acting director, had been advised in advance of his testimony of the by-then defunct surveillance operation."

SFC 26 Dec 73 [NYT]

Gurney, "President Nixon's loyal ally on [the Ervin committee], has ceased to be an active, functioning member ... , according to Senate sources and records. A check shows that Gurney has not been present at the committee's last eight public sessions [31 Oct to 15 Nov] ... during which period Gurney acknowledged that the Justice Department was investigating allegations that Florida builders secretly contributed large sums of money to him " *

SFC 26 Dec 73

IRS - "An Internal Revenue Service official [Roger V. Barth, resigning 31 Dec] said [last week] that he has kept President Nixon advised of any tax problems involving his friends and associates that could embarrass the White House [and that] he thinks the practice of informing the White House about 'sensitive cases' is a 'good idea.' And that it goes back at least to 1963." Barth was advance man for Nixon daughters during 1968 campaign; joined IRS in 1969 as assistant to the commissioner; in Nov 72 went to chief counsel's office.

SFC 26 Dec 73 [WXP]

*Gurney's administrative assistant, Jim Allison Jr., says the reason Gurney was absent from Ervin committee sessions was because of conflicting meetings of Senate Judiciary Committee, of which he is a member. Judiciary Committee records show he did not attend any of its eight public hearings between 1 Nov and 20 Nov.

SFC 27 Dec 73 [UPI]