

27 Dec 73

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and transcripts

Tapes, ~~and~~ summaries/- WH sources say that after a meeting yesterday among Nixon and senior advisers, decision was made not to release transcripts and summaries of tapes and to resist attempts by Ervin committee to obtain such material. Such material would be made available only to House Judiciary committee; "That way we at least give the appearance of cooperation," according to unnamed senior presidential adviser. The sources say the most damaging material is not necessarily in the seven tapes already turned over to special prosecutor, but in the tapes of almost 500 conversations recently subpoenaed by Ervin committee. "Senior White House aides have long emphasized that the President did not want to disclose the contents of the recordings or details of his personal finances because he did not want to embarrass or cause legal problems for his friends, including Haldeman, Ehrlichman and ... Rebozo."

- Haig has become pessimistic, ~~and~~ cynical and disillusioned, and his influence with Nixon has diminished.

- Ziegler "now plays a pre-eminent role in the White House staff hierarchy and has become the President's most trusted adviser and most frequent companion "

- Buzhardt is extremely unhappy and wants to leave WH staff in the next three or four months at the latest. "The client is a damned hard guy to be an attorney for," according to unnamed source. "Fred's had it."

SFC 28 Dec 73 [WXP], Woodward and Bernstein

secretly

Haldeman, Ehrlichman - John J. Wilson has/been receiving from the WH copies of his clients' documents, papers and notes which the WH has turned over to special prosecutor. According to legal authorities, access to government evidence by potential defendants in a criminal case is controlled by the prosecutor or the court. According to court decisions, defendants get access to government evidence just prior to or during the trial, not during the investigation. "It's like telling Haldeman and Ehrlichman what evidence is being developed against them by the prosecutors," according to unnamed Justice Department senior attorney. "Informed sources" say Wilson only receives copies of material requested

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by the special prosecutor, but Haldeman and Ehrlichman personally have been given easy access to the rest of their files.

SFC 28 Dec 73 [WXP]

"Nixon [commercial] Flight Surprised FAA; Little Time to Prepare" - "Federal Aviation Administrator Alexander Butterfield noted in Washington that his agency wasn't given its usual advance notice of the President's flight plans. 'This serious oversight left precious little time for our air traffic people to implement those special precautionary procedures which must always be followed when the President takes to the air lanes,' Butterfield said." Ziegler declines to comment on Butterfield's comment, says the number of those told of the planned flight was kept to a minimum for security reasons.

SFC 28 Dec 73 [AP]

Butterfield - See entry above.

Howard Hughes, two of his top aides and two other associates are named in nine-count criminal indictment by federal grand jury, Las Vegas; defendants are accused of stock manipulation and conspiracy in connection with Hughes' acquisition of Air West Airlines in 1969.

The defendants are Hughes, Maheu, Davis, David B. Charnay, James H. Nall. Named as co-conspirators but not indicted, Hank Greenspun and George Crockett .

SFC 28 Dec 73 [NYT]

Milk producers - Justice Dep't files third antitrust (civil) suit against ~~Mid-America Dairymen~~ dairy cooperatives. Suit is filed in Kansas City against Mid-America Dairymen, "a day after the department disclosed that ... Mitchell had channeled the investigation of another dairy cooperative into a civil suit rather than criminal indictments, counter to the initial recommendations of the antitrust division." The other suits were against AMPI and Dairymen, Inc.

SFC 28 Dec 73 [AP]

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Butterfield - Alexander Cockburn says Woodward and Bernstein were told*by Hugh Sloan about Butterfield and WH taping system, that Woodward and Bernstein told Terry Lenzner, after which Butterfield was interviewed by Ervin committee staff. Cockburn describes Sloan as Haldeman's aide.

Cockburn ~~quotes~~ paraphrases article in this month's issue of Fortune Magazine, saying "directors" of the CIA fear assassination or physical assault "at the hands of their own underlings." Cockburn describes Helms as "inveterate Nixon-hater." Article is by Juan Cameron.

Village Voice, Alexander Cockburn, "Press Clips,"
27 Dec 73 *(no date)

CIA, Helms - See above.

Cowboys-Yankees? - See column by William Rusher.
SFC 27 Dec 73, William Rusher

AMPI - See entry 2 May 74.

Doar begins work at House Judiciary committee. See entry
20 Dec 73.

NYT 5 Aug 74, James M. Naughton and others (long, detailed article of what went on behind the scenes at HJC; time covered is from 23 Oct 73, when investigation is begun, to 27 Jul 74, adoption of Article I of impeachment).