

4 Jan 74 (1)

Ervin committee subpoenas - Nixon rejects subpoenas for more than 500 tapes and documents, saying that to produce the material would destroy confidentiality of presidential communications, and that disclosure to the committee, "and through you to the public," would impair special prosecutor's ability to prosecute any criminal cases arising from grand jury proceedings.

Ervin says, "There is nothing in the Constitution that gives the President any power to withhold from an authorized congressional committee evidence relating to campaign activity or evidence of criminal wrongdoing by his aides."

Dash says committee will take no immediate action to enforce the subpoenas pending outcome of court case involving the five tapes subpoenaed 23 Jul 73.

SFC 5 Jan 74 [NYT]

WH legal staff is reorganized, with St. Clair named special counsel to the President, and Buzhardt and Garment removed from active direction of the Watergate defense. Buzhardt will become counsel to the President, handling other WH legal affairs; Garment is named assistant to the President, sharing title with seven other aides, including Haig.

SFC 5 Jan 74 [NYT]

Barker freed from prison into custody of U.S. marshals who accompany him from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to WX for hearing before a Federal judge on bond arrangement; had served one year and 19 days of an 18-month to six year term. Had been in prison in Florida since "early November."

One side of Barker's face is paralyzed, which he says was caused by exposure to cold while he was digging a ditch at Eglin a week or ten days ago; doctor there diagnosed it as Bell's palsy.

SFC 5 Jan 74 [AP]

Sturgis, Martinez, Gonzalez - "still at Eglin" pending decision of parole board in WX 7 Jan. Date of their transfer to Florida not given; "early November" as in Barker's case? (Entry above.)

SFC 5 Jan 74 [AP]

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Vesco - "IRS Has a Case Against Vesco," for more than \$800,000 in back taxes, 1971. This becomes public when Vesco and his wife appeal IRS verdict to U.S. Tax Court (no date).

SFC 5 Jan 74 [AP]

Saxbe is sworn in, the fourth attorney general in Nixon administration.

SFC 5 Jan 74 [AP, UPI]

(4 Jan 74) AMP

Ⓐ- NYT: "In refusing to comply with the ... subpoenas, which were delivered to the White House on December 19, the President waited until the last minute. His response was originally due at 10 a.m. EST [today] but it was not until six hours later that it was delivered. Dash and Buzhardt had agreed to an extension by telephone."

SFC 5 Jan 74 [NYT]