

16 Jan 74 (1)

Tape (20 Jun 72) - Testimony of Bull and Louis Sims, chief of technical service, Secret Service.

- Bull says he knows of only five who had access to the tape: himself, Nixon, Rose Mary Woods, Buzhardt, Gen. John Bennett.
- Sims says he delivered Uher 5000 to Bull 1 Oct, etc.; on 12 Nov* Bull asked to have it picked up from his office and modified so that it could not record; eight days later (20 Nov?) was asked by Buzhardt to have the recorder picked up from his office and restored to its original condition. (See memo.) *XMP-A

Sims says that to his knowledge Bull was never supplied with the recorder except on 1 Oct, but also says he is unable to supply documentary evidence on who used recorders (sic) because such records are destroyed each time a machine is returned to SS custody. This means there is no record that the Uher was returned to SS between 1 Oct and 12 Nov.

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP]

- Miss Woods has testified previously that she told Nixon of defect in the tape in Oval Office; Ben-Veniste points out in court today that Nixon's logs for the day show Miss Woods meeting with him in his suite EOB, 2:08 p.m. (She has given the time as 2:15 p.m.)

- 1 Oct, Miss Woods has testified, was the last day she worked on the tape of 20 Jun 72. "Despite that, the recording was, according to previous testimony, one of those carried down to Key Biscayne Oct. 4 where Miss Woods has said she continued summarizing subpoenaed tapes for the President with the Uher recorder." See entry 21 Jan, "Nixon Tapes -- "

- Haig-Bull and Nixon-Haig phone conversations 29 Sep 73, chronology; on the former, contradictions in testimony by Haig and Bull.

WXP 17 Jan 74, Lardner

Uher recorder, modification of, 12 and 20 Nov 73.* (Entry, / Tape)
Louis B. Sims, testimony today. (Entry, Tape ...)
Bull, testimony today. (Entry, Tape ...)

*WH owned four other Uher recorders. (NYT
17 Jan 74, Oelsner.) (WXP 18 Jan 74, Lardner.)

16 Jan 74 ②

Taping system, WH - Louis B. Sims chief of technical service, Secret Service, testifies today microphones in Oval Office and Nixon's other offices remain in place but the wires which had connected them to recorders have been cut. No date,* but taping system is understood to have been dismantled 18 Jul 73. See entry 17 Jan, Zumwalt.

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP] *"First part of November" (WXP 18 Jan).

Tape erasure (Nixon) - WH denies Nixon deliberately or accidentally erased missing part of tape of 20 Jun 72; Warren refuses to go beyond this statement or take questions on the matter.

- Congressional reaction.

SFC 17 Jan 74 [WXP]

Nixon (federal income taxes) - IRS says unnamed IRS employee, who leaked information about Nixon taxes, has resigned under threat of being fired. Providence (R.I.) Journal-Bulletin published this information 3 Oct 73. (See entry that date.)

The IRS employe could be charged with a criminal offense because disclosure of information about individual tax returns is illegal, but Justice Department has decided not to prosecute. No mention of whether the Journal-Bulletin is to be prosecuted for publishing the information.

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP], filed Nixon, real estate

NYT 17 Jan 74 [AP], filed W/gate, has two additional paragraphs

Ford says that "even if you take the worst side" of [AP:] "the latest Watergate tape disclosure" [presumably report of expert panel 15 Jan], it doesnot justify impeachment. - WH acknowledges Nixon speechwriters helped Ford prepare his speech of 15 Jan. "Warren had told newsmen [15 Jan] that the speech ... was entirely Ford's work. But after checking further, he volunteered the information that Ford had received White House help."

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP]

SFC 17 Jan 74 [UPI]

16 Jan 74 (3)

Nixon-Hughes (contribution) - Ervin committee "source" gives more details on Hughes contribution, too involved to summarize here, but stories in NYT and WXP include:

Danner's testimony, under oath, was given to committee staff 18 Dec ~~1973~~.

WXP says money was given in two installments, one in 1969 and one in 1970; NYT gives the dates as July and August, 1970.

Nixon said in press conference 26 Oct 73 the money was given for his 1972 re-election campaign; Danner, in sworn deposition "last September" (in lawsuit involving Hughes financial empire), said the money was intended for 1970 congressional campaign; Maheu said, in sworn deposition Jul 73, that the first 50,000 was for Nixon's 1968 campaign and the second installment was related to an antitrust problem Hughes had with Justice Department.

Yesterday's story on this is denied today by Danner and WH, through Warren.

NYT 17 Jan 74, Crewdson

WXP 17 Jan 74, Meyer

Resignation - Tunney says latest revelations about WH tapes (report of expert panel?) represent a "clear, precise case of obstruction of justice" and that Nixon ought to provide a full explanation or resign.

SFC 17 Jan 74 [UPI]

Impeachment - Waldie says he will call for immediate impeachment if Nixon uses a separation of powers argument to block Judiciary Committee inquiry; that if Nixon uses this as defense, impeachment might be tied up in litigation for the remainder of his term.

SFC 17 Jan [AP]

- Elliott Richardson, speaking to largely Republican Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, receives "hearty applause" when he calls for broad interpretation of law on impeachment. "In my view, the broader interpretation is proper. The proceedings should not be restricted to the technicalities of the Penal Code."

SFC 17 Jan 74

16 Jan 74 (4)

Tape erasure - Elliott Richardson (see entry, Impeachment), at press conference, San Francisco, is asked whether he thinks erasure was done at WH; answers, "You have to consider that as a possible explanation . . . perhaps the only explanation."
(Another entry on erasure, this date.)

SFC 17 Jan 74

Elliott Richardson - see entries, Impeachment, Tape erasure.

Tricia Cox says rumors that her marriage is breaking up is "a deliberate lie;" statement is issued through Mrs. Nixon's press secretary. UPI says questions are being asked because Mrs. Cox stayed with the Nixons for 18 days in San Clemente, including the New Year holiday, while her husband remained in New York. UPI: "The denial was issued after a newspaper and a television network informed White House aides that they were about to come out with stories reporting a breakup of the marriage."

SFC 17 Jan [UPI]

Paracel Islands - "The Saigon Government accused China today of violating South Vietnamese sovereignty by landing Chinese nationals on three islands claimed by South Vietnam "

NYT 17 Jan 74 [Reuters]

- "South Vietnamese navy commandos landed yesterday* on one of the disputed Paracel islands but found only a Chinese flag and a sign written in Chinese characters, [Saigon] government sources said today."

SFC 18 Jan 74 [AP]

*[17 Jan]

See entries, 6 Jan, 7 Jan, Vietnam.

Clippings above, and subsequent clippings on the Paracels, China file. There probably will be no further notes in this Chronology.

Navy denies charges that mistaken emergency signals from Polaris submarines nearly set off nuclear war twice in 1971. Charges were made 15 Jan by Rep. Les Aspin, who said emergency signal buoys launched themselves to the surface from the subs, due to mechanical malfunction, and sent messages that the two submarines had been sunk by enemy action.

SFC 17 Jan 74 [UPI], filed Navy

(16 Jan 74) AMP

(A)- Sims says Bull asked for the modification 9 Nov;
machine was modified 12 Nov. WH has said the 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ -minute
erasure was discovered 14 Nov.

WXP 18 Jan 74, Lardner