

22 Jan 74 (1)

Nixon (California taxes) - William M. Bennett, member of State Board of Equalization, files complaint with State Franchise Tax Board, formally requesting the tax board to bill Nixon for state income taxes. Complaint says Nixon has voted in California since 1969, owns property, and has a personal attorney, accountant, physician and a bank account in California; that whenever there is a question about a person's tax liability, the state sends the individual an assessment of estimated taxes, which is then paid under protest pending appeal.

SFC 23 Jan 74 [AP]

Ford says Nixon, during two-hour meeting with him 21 Jan, volunteered to show him information proving he had no prior knowledge of Watergate break-in or subsequent efforts at cover-up. Says he has not had time to look at this material but "I know from our conversation the President had no prior knowledge [etc]." Does not say (more accurately, story does not say) whether this information is in the form of transcript or transcripts. When asked if his knowledge was connected with statement by Scott 20 Jan in which he said he had information which would clear Nixon in some aspects of the case, Ford says he has not seen those transcripts.

SFC 23 Jan 74 [UPI]

WH transcripts of Nixon-Dean conversations - see entry, Ford. - Jaworski's office, according to informed source, has uncovered no evidence contradicting Dean's testimony before Ervin committee; there are no plans to file perjury charges against Dean. Source claims to be familiar with the same material Scott has seen.

SFC 23 Jan [AP]

Ervin says he will recommend that the committee vote to resume its hearings next week; committee is to meet tomorrow to decide whether further hearings are necessary to inquire into milk fund and Hughes-Rebozo cases.

SFC 23 Jan 73 [WXP]

22 Jan 74 (2)

Milk deal/ITT - J.J. Kilpatrick, commenting on WH statement (8 Jan): "In both cases, the charge, implicitly, was bribery. This is among the specific offenses for which impeachment can be sought." Kilpatrick believes Nixon's explanation in each case is honest and straightforward and that no quid pro quo was involved; that accusations have
SFC 22 Jan 74, J.J. Kilpatrick been demolished.

Impeachment (bribery) - see entry, Milk deal/ITT.

Jaworski - Joseph Kraft believes Jaworski is less adamant than has been reported on the matter of turning over material obtained by special prosecutor's investigation to Judiciary Committee, and that a compromise can be worked out. See column for Jaworski's reasons against turning over the material.

SFC 22 Jan 74, Joseph Kraft

Gallup poll on resignation and/or impeachment - see entry 7 Jan 74, Gallup poll Poll, taken 4-7 Jan, published today.

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Impeachment - Rodino says impeachment inquiry might have to be extended for a year beyond the April target date if Jaworski's office does not turn over relevant grand jury evidence to the committee, because the panel would have to duplicate that investigation.

SFC 23 Jan 74 [NYT]

Ziegler, in first press briefing in more than a month, says of Nixon's drop in polls that some of it is caused by Watergate break-in and subsequent cover-up. "But the substantial impact has been the constant, constant, constant, constant charge, charge, charge against the President of the United States - unsupported charges, but charges very difficult to catch up with before they become implanted in public opinion." Says Nixon will not resign (is "not entertaining at all" suggestions that he do so); that WH intends to forego further counter-attacks against Watergate critics and concentrate instead on running the government.

SFC 23 Jan 74 [LATimes]

22 Jan 74 (3)

Resignation - see entry, Ziegler.

Goldwater says liberal columnists are "trying to set me up" as Nixon's political executioner by predicting he will head a delegation to ask Nixon to resign; says he will not play that role.

Goldwater also says he has private polls showing Watergate and Nixon unpopularity will cause a 10 per cent loss of votes to Republican candidates in congressional elections, and that "I can sense a very strong feeling right here on the hill and you're going to see it more and more, that many Republicans would like to run this year without Mr. Nixon."

SFC 23 Jan 74 [AP]

Hughes - Federal government has been unable to notify Hughes he is scheduled for arraignment 25 Jan on stock manipulation and conspiracy charges; of two summonses sent to Hughes at his last known address, the Summa Corp in Las Vegas, the first was returned marked "moved, left no address," and the second was refused by the corporation.

SFC 23 Jan 74 [UPI]

Impeachment - Nixon meets with 18 GOP congressmen; one of them, Peter Frelinghuysen says Nixon told them he is "gonna fight like hell" against impeachment.

Nixon calls in about the same number of Democratic House members 23 Jan, [UPI:] "presumably to give them the same message."

SFC 24 Jan 74 [UPI]