

8 May 74 (C)

Subpoenas, House Judiciary Committee - Doar says emphatically that Nixon has "definitely not" given the committee the full Watergate story, and will recommend that the committee issue a subpoena demanding the 76 tapes which it requested last month. Committee members are generally in agreement that the best way to proceed would be to ask St. Clair, who will be sitting with the committee as the case is presented, for each item as it is needed; if the request is turned down, a subpoena could then be issued for the specific item.

WXP 9 May 74, Lyons and Chapman

Rev. John McLaughlin, at press conference [held at WH?] defends Nixon as a moral man who was "thirsting for the truth" and showed compassion for people in his administration, that he has "acquitted himself with honor", and that his use of profanity is "a form of emotional drainage, a form of therapy, a form of release."

AMPI - B

WXP 9 May 74, Kilpatrick

Nixon (health) - "Reliable witnesses have reported that Mr. Nixon is deeply depressed at times by the attacks on him and that he is exceedingly tired physically. While the official word is that he is optimistic and working hard on public business, some aides have acknowledged that his morale at times is extremely low and that all members of his family have been acutely upset by the continuing Watergate fight."

WXP 9 May 74, Carroll Kilpatrick

AMPI - Story on AMPI's contributions to Johnson.

WXP 9 May 74, Lardner

Harris poll, taken 7 and 8 May, following release of transcripts. "It is patently apparent from these results that [Nixon's gamble] in releasing the edited tape transcripts has backfired badly among the people and has left him more susceptible than ever to impeachment and removal by Congress. It is apparent now that the President is in deeper trouble than ever before on the Watergate matter." - From analysis of poll by Lou Harris.

AMPI - C

WXP 12 May 74 See also Yankelovich poll,
WXP 23 May 74 SFC 13 May 74.

(2)

8 May 74 (2)

Tapes/transcripts - Woodward and Bernstein, basing their story on "information from persons in the White House involved in preparing the edited transcripts," say the tapes themselves contain "numerous periods of unexplained silence lasting as long as several minutes each. 'In dozens of instances,' in the words of one source, the silences occur inexplicably in the midst of conversations. Yet the transcripts prepared by the White House for the House Judiciary Committee contain no hint of such gaps in conversation. Other White House sources said ... that the silences in question seem absolute and contain no ... intruding background noises."

See also NYTimes 7 May 74 (entry that date), Transcripts ...
WXP 8 May 74, Woodward and Bernstein

Transcripts (typists) - "The raw, unedited transcripts were typed by a team of four trusted secretaries in the White House, but the [WH?] sources said the typists were overworked and often not familiar with the names or legal terms used by the President and his aides."

WXP 8 May 74, Woodward and Bernstein

Tapes (examination by experts) - "Last weekend, a panel of technical experts submitted a report to ... Sirica that virtually ruled out the possibility that the 18½-minute gap could have been the result of an accident. According to informed sources...., the panel now is studying at least two additional tapes to determine if they are original recordings, as required in the special Watergate prosecutor's subpoena. The experts reportedly have found some preliminary technical signs that two or more of those tapes - turned over to the Watergate prosecutors last November - are duplicates. Sources familiar with this inquiry have said it may be impossible to determine definitively whether or not the tapes are originals." See entry 7 May, Tapes, House Judiciary...

WXP 8 May 74, Woodward and Bernstein

Tapes (originals?) - Original tapes, not duplicates, required by special prosecutor's subpoena. See entry, Tapes, examination by experts

8 May 74 (3)

Subpoena (Jaworski) - "Time Viewed as Nixon's Biggest Gain in Subpoena Fight." "The decision to fight also provides an option that the White House now seems to consider priceless: delay. The litigation will probably take months to complete, and that fact, some observers suggested today, may well have been the major factor behind President Nixon's decision."

Author says Nixon's lawyers have indicated that they are willing to take the case to the Supreme Court, and points out that while "last fall ... his press office ... had consistently said that the President would abide by a 'definitive' court ruling on the case, this time ... St. Clair has refused time after time to answer the question of whether or not the President would abide by a Supreme Court ruling."

Author quotes Norman Dorsen, professor at New York University School of Law, as saying, "What he's doing now may not be good for him, but it might be better than releasing more tapes."

NYT 9 May 74, Lesley Oelsner

Petersen, Silbert - Senate Judiciary Committee, in executive session, votes unanimously to begin full-scale hearings into Justice Department's failure to unravel Watergate cover-up in 1972 and Petersen's involvement; outcome could influence Silbert's nomination to become U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, now pending before the committee.

NYT 9 May 74, Hersh

~~"The Gaps in the Tapes Engage a Special Editorial"~~

~~BYZ~~

Gaps in subpoenaed tapes - See entry, Tapes/transcripts.
- Warren denies ~~WXP~~ there are "unexplained silences" in the tapes, says there are "no gaps on those tapes," but there may be lapses when no one is talking.

SFC 9 May 74 [WXP]

Tapes - tax deductible? - Daniel Schorr, on CBS News, says special prosecutor's staff believes one reason Nixon set up taping system was to create future income tax gift deduction, that shortly before it was set up ~~the~~ Ralph Newman wrote to DeMarco that 1969 amendment did not exclude gifts of

8 May 74 (4)

[from previous page]
"non-paper" material such as tapes.
SFC 9 May 74, AP

Ralph Newman - see entry, Tapes, tax deductible?

Rebozo - Miami Herald says IRS has begun a new examination of the records of Rebozo's Key Biscayne bank; IRS refuses comment.

SFC 9 May 74 [AP]

Tapes (Jaworski subpoena) - Jaworski and St. Clair, in closed conference with Sirica, report that attempts to reach a settlement have been dropped. St. Clair says Nixon will not surrender any more Watergate tapes; Jaworski says he will continue to press for enforcement of his subpoena for tapes of 64 WH conversations. Sirica issues a short statement after the meeting saying he will conduct a hearing on the matter 13 May.

SFC 9 May 74 [WXP]

Dean is reported to have bought a house, for \$100,000, in an exclusive section of Los Angeles, and is said to be moving to California so that his wife can be near her mother who is seriously ill.

SFC 9 May 74 [AP]

Nixon (tapes as tax deduction?) - See entry 9 May, AMP-D.

[Expletive deleted] - Gannett News Service reports that, according to sources who have listened to the original tapes and are close to the House Judiciary Committee (AP's wording), in the Nixon-Dean conversation of 21 Mar 73, where the transcript shows Nixon saying "(Expletive ~~deleted~~ deleted), get it . . .," the tape has him saying, "God damn it! Get it!"

NYT 10 May 74 [AP]

Transcripts - See entry, Harris poll

8 May 74 (5)

Tapes - "Turning Over the Tapes: Another Theory."
Theorizing by William Raspberry on alteration of tapes of
20 Jun 72, Nixon-Mitchell phone call and Nixon-Haldeman
conversation.

"Maybe it was nothing more than bad judgment that the
tapes weren't destroyed within hours of Alexander Butterfield's
revelation that they existed. The President would have had
a plausible explanation for destroying them: The need to
reassure foreign diplomats and heads of state that their
private conversations with him would remain forever
confidential."

WXP 8 May 74, William Raspberry

IRS - "Tax Inquiry Focus Shifts in Capitol; Panels [Ervin
Committee, House Judiciary Committee, Joint Committee on
Internal Revenue Taxation] Look Into Possible Unlawful Use of
Returns for Political Information."

NYT 8 May 74, Eileen Shanahan

Doar - column on him by Joseph Alsop. "Doar has ... firmly
[rejected] both of the roles most members of the political
community expected him to play. He has flatly refused to
be either a demon-prosecutor or a headline-hunting
investigator. He lives secluded with his inquiry; and
both [St. Clair and Haig] concede that John Doar seems to be
trying, above all, to do a decent, fair-minded job.
The quiet way [he] has handled himself has earned him much
respect."

WXP 8 May 74, Joseph Alsop

Fielding break-in - See entry 19 Apr 74 for remarks made in
chambers by Judge Gesell, to the effect that if defendants
cannot show they were acting on explicit instructions from
Nixon, the case may have to be dismissed.

WXP 9 May 74, Lippman

Mrs. Nixon tells Mrs. Gordon Lamont (chairman of the council
of the Women's National Republicans Club, meeting in WX),
a "longtime friend" (WXP's wording), that in the Watergate
affair "We will win because we are right." (No date given.)

WXP 9 May 74

8 May 74 (6)

Vesco - President Daniel Oduber of Costa Rica takes office today. See entry 6 May (same heading) on letter handed to Vesco by Oduber that day, warning him that if Costa Rican courts order him extradited he will be expelled.

See entry 6 May (same heading) for some details of Oduber's letter, and for references to related entries on Vesco.

SFEx 21 May 74

(8 May 74) AMP

Ⓐ - NYTimes says these tapes are 42 tapes of Watergate-related conversations, subpoenaed 11 Apr; 75 tapes concerning W/gate requested 19 Apr but not subpoenaed; 66 tapes of conversations about Nixon's relations with dairy interests and IIT, "also sought [not subpoenaed] April 19."

NYT May 74, Rosenbaum

Ⓑ - "Father McLaughlin said he opposed the original release of tapes to the Watergate grand juries because he knew it would lead to continuing demands for access to presidential files. 'It's like losing your virginity,' he said, 'The next time is a little easier.'"

SFC 9 May 74, AP and UPI

Ⓒ - Later NYT story, attributed (in story itself) to AP, quotes Harris as saying 23 May, that the polling was not conducted until 7-8 May when "the full impact of the contents of the edited Watergate transcripts had had time to sink in. By and large, despite the spate of calls for the resignation of Mr. Nixon by hitherto pillars of conservative, pro-Nixon support, the President did not suffer as much as most observers thought he had."

NYT 25 May 74

Ⓔ - For list of some related refs, see entry, Early (?) May 74.