

11 Jul 74 (1)

Tapes (other defects found) - At a hearing before Judge Sirica, Ben-Veniste asks for a court order directing WH to begin indexing and to take precautions with various WH tapes relating to the Watergate case, saying the special prosecutor's office had learned of a gap almost 19 minutes long in Nixon-Ehrlichman conversation of 20 Mar 73, and of another tape being torn and mangled by WH secretaries during transcription. The tape of 20 Mar 73 is not one of those being subpoenaed for the Watergate case. Ehrlichman's log shows he had two conversations with Nixon that day, one at 11:30 a.m. and the other at 4 p.m. with George Bush; no indication which of the two has the gap.

NYT 12 Jul 74 [AP], p. 13

House Judiciary Committee issues volumes of evidence received by the committee, consisting of eight thick volumes of factual statements and supporting documents. "The committee gave no conclusions in the material, which was the first of seven installments in the planned release of virtually all of the evidence on which Congress will ultimately decide whether Mr. Nixon is fit to continue in office." This first release consists of 4,133 pages. The first seven volumes consist of material assembled by the staff of the HJC (3,891 pages); the eighth is material in rebuttal by St. Clair (242 pages).

The committee ordered a printing of 10,000 copies, with distribution of one set each to 435 House and 100 Senate members. The remainder go on sale tomorrow at the Government Printing Office, at about \$35 a set.

NYT 12 Jul 74

- See companion story by Richard L. Madden on how the information was processed and how it was prepared for presentation each day at the committee's closed sessions, in "in a relentless race against time and fatigue." The description is of a virtual 24-hour a day operation, with staff members sleeping during the day when the committee was meeting, some of them sleeping in the park across the street.

NYT 12 Jul 74, Richard L. Madden

- Excerpts from volumes of evidence carried by NYT.

NYT 12 Jul 74

- "Virtually the full text of [HJC's] factual description of the Watergate evidence" is printed by Newsweek.

Newsweek 22 Jul 74 (filed 15 Jul), p. 26

11 Jul 74 (2)

Nixon (personal use of campaign funds) - "White House spokesmen declined today to deny specifically charges that campaign funds had been put to President Nixon's personal use and that another gap had been discovered in the Watergate tapes. At a news briefing [Warren] was questioned at length about the two charges, but in a long exchange with reporters he would not specifically deny either." The charge on campaign funds involves Rebozo; on tape gap, see entry, Tapes, other defects found.

NYT 12 Jul 74, John Herbers

Rebozo - See entry, Nixon, personal use of campaign funds.

"Mr. Nixon has been particularly sensitive to the charges against Mr. Rebozo."

NYT 12 Jul 74, John Herbers

Tapes, WH offer to special prosecutor - Assistant special prosecutor, James Neal, rejects a WH offer "to verify portions of 20 of the 64 tapes the prosecutor's office has subpoenaed. Mr. Neal complained that the ... offer would allow Judge Sirica access only to portions of the tapes identical to transcripts already released by President Nixon. Judge Sirica could not hear all of the tapes, and the tapes themselves could not be used as courtroom evidence, according to the offer. 'The offer is illusory,' Mr. Neal said. 'It means nothing.'"

NYT 12 Jul 74 [AP]

Hunt (threat) - Included in HJC's volumes of evidence released today (see entry) is Hunt's testimony before the grand jury "last January," in which he conceded that a threat was involved in his demand for money.

NYT 12 Jul 74, David E. Rosenbaum

- Newsweek carries excerpts from Hunt's grand jury testimony.

Newsweek 22 Jul 74 (filed 15 Jul 74), p. 25

- HJC's volumes of testimony include Ehrlichman's grand jury testimony "last September" that when Dean told him of Hunt's demand, "I said it looked to me like blackmail."

NYT 12 Jul 74, David E. Rosenbaum

11 Jul 74 (3)

St. Clair/Dean - St. Clair questions Dean before the HJC, in what one member called "a real bloodletting." "It was the first chance ever for [St. Clair] or any of the President's other lawyers to cross-examine Mr. Dean, ... the chief witness against the President. The Judiciary Committee members differed, depending on their viewpoint about impeachment, on whether Mr. St. Clair had successfully challenged Mr. Dean's credibility. But the members agreed on two points: that Mr. Dean had stood by the now familiar story he told to the ~~Watergate~~ Senate Watergate committee last summer, and that Mr. St. Clair had attacked his testimony with ferocity and dexterity. But Mr. Dean, described as polished and self-assured in his testimony, reportedly could not be seriously shaken from his story."

Story says St. Clair's central point in Nixon's defense - that the money paid Hunt was for legitimate expenses and not to meet a blackmail threat - is seriously weakened by HJC's release today of its volumes of evidence, including grand jury testimony by Hunt and Ehrlichman. In that testimony Hunt (see entry) said he intended to threaten Nixon when he made his demand for money, and Ehrlichman said that when Dean told him about Hunt's demand, "I said it looked to me like blackmail."

NYT 12 Jul 72, David E. Rosenbaum

Dean (HJC) - See entry, St. Clair/Dean.

(11 Jul 74) AMP

Ⓐ - See entry, Nixon, personal use ... ; see entry, Rebozo.

Ⓔ - Ben-Veniste's request for court order is not granted by Sirica, but at the request of another assistant special prosecutor, James Neal, he does order that the record of today's hearing be sent to the Supreme Court.

NYT 12 Jul 74 [AP]

Ⓒ - The material is arranged in the form of a chronology running from "Events prior to the Watergate break-in," 2 Dec 71 through 17 Jun 72, to "Events following the Watergate break-in," 17 Jun 72 through 30 Apr 73. Also included is statement "submitted on behalf of the President" by St. Clair, on "Events following the Watergate break-in," 19 Jun 72 through 1 Mar 74.

Newsweek 22 Jul 74 (filed 15 Jul)