

8 Aug 74 (1)

Nixon, 9 p.m. EDT, announces his resignation. See entry.

Ford - Nixon, at midmorning, tells Ford he intends to resign.
NYT 12 Aug 74, James M. Naughton and others

Nixon, 8 p.m., "met in the Cabinet room with about 40 of his most loyal supporters in Congress to thank them. Nearly all of them, including the President, cried. By 8:30 Representative Elford A. Cederberg ... was concerned that the President seemed 'pretty much a broken man.'

"Thirty minutes later, however, Mr. Nixon was controlled, unemotional, strangely at ease with himself when he returned to the Oval Office to announce his resignation.

"After the speech, he took a last sentimental walk around the White House with his wife, Pat. Then he made telephone calls to a number of people until well after midnight, thanking them, in some cases seeking - and receiving - reassurance that he had done the right thing."

NYT 12 Jul 74, James M. Naughton and others

- Nixon ~~meets with~~, "in the hours just before air-time ... called in two groups from the Hill - the first a formal deputation of its leaders, the second a reunion class of 46 of his oldest friends in the Congress." Was calm during the first session.

Newsweek 19 Aug 74 (filed 12 Aug), p. 22

"Haig slipped away [today] from the White House unnoticed for a discreet rendezvous with Jaworski; the official word later was that the general simply advised the prosecutor of the President's decision, nothing more, but there were indications that he took some oblique soundings as to whether Jaworski meant to move against the President."

Newsweek 19 Aug 74 (filed 12 Aug), p. 21

- See entry, 12 Aug 74, Nixon (deal?)

Everyone in the WH is locked in - See entry.

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Tapes (subpoenaed by Jaworski) - WH lawyer J.J. Chester gives Sirica tape of Nixon-Colson meeting, 8 Jan 73. This "apparently fulfilled Jaworski's demand for a conversation between the two men about ... Hunt." See entry 7 Aug 74.

White House "index and analysis" submitted today shows that tape of an evening Nixon-Colson phone call, 21 Mar 73, ran out during their conversation, leaving 17 minutes unrecorded.

SFC 10 Aug 74 [UPI]

- Unclear from story whether tape of 21 Mar 73 was turned over to Sirica or only mentioned in the "index and analysis," or whether it is the second tape which could not be found when tapes were delivered to Sirica 7 Aug 74.

SFC ~~8~~ 10 Aug 74, p. 2 [UPI]

Nixon (deal) - "The most redeeming element in the Watergate tragedy has been the confirmation its denouncement is providing that no citizen is above the law. That reaffirmation of a concept basic to democracy and social responsibility will be subverted if eagerness in Washington to speed President Nixon's departure from office results in serious contemplation of a 'deal' to induce his resignation. The rule of law was what the tragedy of Watergate was all about; the lesson must not be undermined the moment it is confirmed."

NYT 8 Aug 74, Editorial

Nixon's memoirs - "Scott Meredith, the literary agent, said [today] that a close associate of Richard M. Nixon, presumably acting on Mr. Nixon's behalf, had asked him a month ago how much money Mr. Nixon could earn by writing his memoirs. Meredith was one of several literary agents who estimated, in response to inquiries [by "close associate"? - by NYTimes?], that Mr. Nixon's memoirs could bring him a total of \$2 million or more before taxes." The time mentioned, "a month ago," would be about the time ~~Haldeman was~~ of story on Haldeman's inquiries about his book (entry 10 Jul 74).

CBS News 10 Aug 74, on Nixon book: "Publishing circles, though, expressed doubt the writings could command [the figure of \$2 million] because of uncertainty about whether

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[from preceding page]

Mr. Nixon would tell the truth about Watergate without some kind of immunity being granted."

SFC 10 Aug 74 [NYT, Eric Pace]

CBS News 10 Aug 74

Nixon (immunity?) - "The traditional practice for prosecutors faced with evidence implicating both subordinates and their superiors in a crime is to concentrate on prosecuting the superiors. If anyone gets immunity, it is a subordinate whose testimony is needed to make the prosecutor's case against the superior. This is, however, only practice, not a legal requirement."

Author deals with other legal aspects of granting immunity.

NYT 9 Aug 74, Lesley Oelsner

Haldeman et al (immunity?) - See entry, Nixon (immunity?)

Nixon (prosecution?) - On constitutional provision that an official convicted by the Senate in an impeachment hearing "shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law": "To some lawyers, [this] provision is proof that the men who drafted the Constitution intended that a President who commits a crime be prosecuted for it. As Daniel Davidson, [a] Washington lawyer, put it today, 'the Constitution was written for this situation.' Mr. Davidson rejects the rationale that Mr. Nixon has already suffered massive disgrace and that the loss of office is penalty enough. The drafters of the Constitution knew that a President who committed a crime 'would be disgraced,' he said, and they included the provision for prosecution nevertheless."

NYT 9 Aug 74, Lesley Oelsner

Frank Willis says no one is exempt from being honest; "No position is too high - if you are wrong, you are wrong "

NYT 9 Aug 74, p. 6, UPI

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Nixon announces his resignation, in nation-wide address; resignation effective as of noon tomorrow.

In first half of the statement he uses variations of the phrase "the best interests of the nation" seven times.

Nixon mentions Watergate only twice (third and eighth paragraphs). "Throughout the long and difficult period of Watergate, I have felt it was my duty to persevere; to make every possible effort to complete the term of office to which you elected me. In the past few days, however, it has become evident to me that I no longer have a strong enough political base in the Congress to justify continuing that effort." ^{^M} "From the discussions I have had with Congressional and other leaders I have concluded that because of the Watergate matter I might not have the support of the Congress that I would consider necessary to back the very difficult decisions and carry out the duties of this office in the way the interests of the nation will require."

There is no mention of his involvement in Watergate, and no mention of the word "impeachment," which is described only as "the constitutional process" and the "fight ... for my personal vindication."

NYT 9 Aug 74, text of resignation announcement

- Announcement of resignation is sixth anniversary of 8 Aug 68, when he accepted the Republican party's nomination, when he said, "America's in trouble today, not because her people have failed but because her leaders have failed."

NYT 9 Aug 74, UPI

Nixon (impeachment; immunity) - "Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader, has made the wise and constructive suggestion that impeachment proceedings should continue against President Nixon despite his resignation.
....

"Let there be no more dithering about conferring immunity on Mr. Nixon for crimes he committed while in office. The special prosecutor should now allow a grand jury to do what the original Watergate grand jury wanted to do last winter, namely, indict Mr. Nixon for conspiracy to obstruct justice. Assuming that he is convicted after a trial, Mr. Nixon can then be the recipient of a pardon if President Ford wishes to confer one upon him and upon all the other Watergate

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[from preceding page]
defendants as well. But clemency must follow conviction not precede it.

"As Senator Mansfield has suggested, let the House and Senate conclude the impeachment proceedings and render a judgment on his 'high crimes and misdemeanors.' For the future 'domestic tranquility' of this Republic, it is essential that Mr. Nixon not be allowed to leave office in a manner that leaves either his criminality or his unconstitutional conduct open to any doubt or question - by him, by his supporters, or by sympathetic historians in the distant future. To guard against tomorrow's mythmakers let the record be clear and irrefutable."

NYT 9 Aug 74, p. 33, William V. Shannon

- The "original Watergate grand jury" referred to by Shannon has had its term extended to 4 Dec. 74. AMP - A

Nixon, on penultimate day as President, "went composedly through the schedule of a busy President. He met with his Vice President and the bipartisan leadership of Congress. He appointed Federal judges, accepted resignations from executive agencies and signed several laws. He also announced ... that tomorrow he would resign" AMP - B

Nixon's last official action is to veto appropriations for Federal environmental, consumer protection and rural assistance programs, saying the bill is inflationary.

NYT 9 Aug 74, p. 1, Philip Shabecoff

NYT 9 Aug 74, John M. Crewdson, filed Nix Ad

Cecil Emerson, a former WH aide, says he resigned last March because he was not allowed to examine tapes of WH conversations despite being an adviser to St. Clair. He also coordinated the FBI's investigation into the 18½ minute tape gap. Says Buzhardt excluded everyone but himself from listening to subpoenaed tapes.

NYT 9 Aug 74 [UPI]

- See entry dated "End of March 74."

Nixon supporters - See article on Donald Kendall, Baruch Korff, Sun Myung Moon, and their organizations. See also article by Tom Donnelly on "permissive reactionaries."

Rolling Stone, 29 Aug 74, Morton Kondracke, filed 8 Aug 74.

WXP 3 Aug 74, Tom Donnelly

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Everyone in the WH is locked in, with no one allowed in or out, from about 6:20 to 6:43 p.m. EDT; doors are bolted from the outside with WH police stationed outside each of the locked doors. (Reporters had at first thought they were the only ones locked in.) Press Office says Secret Service misunderstood Nixon's wishes; Secret Service says the order came from Haig. "In fact, the order to lock all the White House doors came to the Secret Service from President Nixon himself, who apparently wished to walk the grounds totally undisturbed ... before making his resignation speech "

WXP 10 Aug 74 [no attribution]

Ziegler (at last press briefing?) announces Nixon's meeting with various members of Congress this evening, and his speech. In two consecutive sentences (total, 49 words) manages to use the term "The President of the United States," twice, and also manages to include "the White House," and "his Oval Office."

Transcription of radio report (which network not noted), 8 Aug 74

Nixon quotation on moral integrity in government, read by caller to talk show. Quotation is from speech by Sen. Richard Nixon in Boston, 29 May 51.

"We have had corruption in our history, but never before in our history have we seen corruption defended and condoned by those in high places. If they won't recognize or admit that corruption exists, how can we expect them to clean it out? Our greatest responsibility is to restore again the moral integrity of our national government. And let me say this: that wherever we find immorality or a breach of public trust, those who are guilty should be removed. We shall restore again the faith of the people in the honesty, morality and integrity of their government officials, and we shall set an example for all the world to see of the heights free men can reach in governing themselves."

KGO, Owen Spann show, 8 Aug 74, transcription

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letter to GSA changing terms on
Nixon (pre-Presidential papers) - "Some time during that
difficult day of August 8th President Nixon signed two almost
identical letters, barring public access to certain of his
papers until 1985. If he had not signed the letters he
would have lost control, the moment he ceased to be President,
[of these papers]. It was the '69 gift which was
eventually disallowed by the Internal Revenue Service and
caused President Nixon a serious tax problem. Part of the
reason for the disallowal was the restrictions placed on the
so-called public gift, restrictions the President extended in
one of his final acts [8 Aug]." AMP - C

CBS Radio, Robert Pierpoint, 15 Aug 74, transcription

Nixon resignation - "If the President should resign, his
supporters always could claim that he had not received full
legal process and that he had been railroaded out of office
by the press, the liberal establishment and other assorted
enemies. It is not inconceivable, knowing Mr. Nixon's
record, that he would launch a campaign to vindicate himself
along these lines. He is fully capable of distorting the
record and trying to don the cloak of a martyr. A campaign
to restore the President's image would be far more
destructive to the body politic of this country than an
impeachment and trial. There must be no question about the
legitimacy of the removal of a President from office."

Des Moines Register, editorial today, as given by
KGO radio news 8 Aug 74 (transcription)

- At the end of the above quotation, news item points out
that the Des Moines Register supported Nixon in his campaign
for re-election in 1972.

Haldeman defense fund - Z. Wayne Griffin, organizer of legal
defense fund, said (unspecified date during the week of
22-28 Sep 74) that the drive began 8 Aug. [today], that the
response had been "hopeful" since the drive began but that
it "tapered abruptly" the week Ford pardoned Nixon, and "the
amounts are not as effulgent as they might be."

NYT 1 Oct 74 [Special to the NYT]

Donald Kendall)
Baruch Korff) See entry, Nixon supporters
Sun Myung Moon)

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Nixon (Gandhi) - From review of book by Jimmy Breslin, "How the Good Guys Finally Won": "Mr. Nixon called a friend of Mr. Breslin's late on the evening he resigned, and 'talked about going to jail,' saying, 'I guess it won't be so bad. You can do a lot of political writing in jail . . . Gandhi went to prison, you know.'"

NYT 19 May 75, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, review of book by Jimmy Breslin

White House taping system - See entry 2 May 74, same heading, on sophisticated, professional quality of White House taping system.

(8 Aug 74) AMP

- (A) - See entry 31 May 74.
- (B) - See entry, Nixon (pre-Presidential papers).
- (C) - See also SFC 19 Aug 74 [NYT].
- (D) - National Archives publishes two final volumes of public papers of Nixon's Presidency, 4 (?) Mar 76; the period covered is for the years 1973 and 1974. Each contains a foreword by Nixon. In the foreword for the 1974 volume he gives his account of his resignation, in which he says, "It was also clear that my own political base in Congress had become too weak to accomplish the important things that needed to be done in America and in the world during the remaining two years of my Administration."
NYT 5 Mar 76