

9 Aug 74 ①

Nixon's view of the end of his Presidency, in speech to crowd when he arrived in California: "Having completed one task .... "

NYT 10 Aug 74, p. 4, Wallace Turner

Charges against Nixon - Article by Paul L. Montgomery, "an accounting of the charges against Mr. Nixon - based on the Judiciary Committee's documents and proceedings, supplemented by statements that postdated the committee's deliberations - and of his responses to them - based on statements by Mr. Nixon, his lawyers and other defendants."

Author lists the following separate areas of Presidential activity: general plan and policy; interfering with investigations; altering or destroying evidence; hush money; executive clemency; suborning perjury; failure to act; misleading the public; Internal Revenue Service; wiretaps; plumbers; Kleindienst nomination.

NYT 9 Aug 74, p. 13, Paul L. Montgomery

Nixon resignation - "The forced departure of Richard M. Nixon from the Presidency - for that is what it was even though his resignation is nominally an act of his own volition - is in a larger sense a reaffirmation of the strength of the United States and of the structure of American democracy.

"For the events that have been exposed under the generic name of 'Watergate,' ... represented a profound subversion of American democratic institutions, an attempt to seize and consolidate control - not by arms but by the far more effective and penetrating method of subtle accretion of political power in the Executive Office. This is really what was going on at the pinnacle of government, in the White House itself. ....

"While one can have only pity for Mr. Nixon today, one can have pride in the institutions that have proved strong and resilient enough successfully to surmount the most severe internal crisis and the most insidious internal danger to have threatened this great Republic of ours in more than 100 years."

NYT 9 Aug 74, Editorial

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Ehrlichman - Reston, in column today, quotes Ehrlichman as having said 7 Sep 72: "After the history of this first term is written and you look back, you're going to see that, compared to other Administrations or by any other standards you'd want to apply, that it has been an extraordinarily clean, corruption-free Administration, because the President insists on that." Reston gives no details about where Ehrlichman made these remarks, or the occasion for them.

NYT 9 Aug 74, p. 33, James Reston

Nixon (resignation) - See long, detailed story of Nixon's last 15 days as President, beginning with Supreme Court decision 24 Jul 74, and the efforts made to get him to resign, particularly during the last half of this period. *AMP-B*  
(Notes already made in Chronology.)

NYT 12 Aug 74, James M. Naughton and others

- See also Time and Newsweek 19 Aug 74 (filed 12 Aug) covering much the same period, day by day, with slight discrepancies. Notes already made in Chronology.

~~Chronology, 24 Jul 74 through 9 Aug 74, day by day -  
See entry, Nixon (resignation).~~

AMPI sues "Nixon's [GOP?] campaign trust for return of \$100,000 given illegally in 1969, one of the co-op's lawyers [Sidney Harris], said today." Suit is filed in WX, no date given. Suit is filed after months of trying to get the money refunded voluntarily.

NYT 10 Aug 74 [AP]

Nixon is named a defendant in \$25-million damage suit seeking to void results of the 1972 election on grounds of "fraud and corruption." Suit is filed in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia on behalf of "American voters" by Kent Saldan, who says he is chairman of the American Constitutional Rights Committee in Philadelphia.

NYT 10 Aug 74, [UPI]

American Constitutional Rights Committee - See entry, Nixon is named a defendant ....

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Nixon (pardon?) - Ford's press secretary, Jerald F. terhorst, suggests that Ford is unlikely to grant Nixon a pardon, reminds those present at briefing that Ford, at his confirmation hearing, had said "I do not think the public would stand for it."

The question asked at that time, to which the quotation was the answer, was, "If a President resigns his office before his term expried, would his successor have the power to prevent or to terminate any investigation or criminal prosecution against the former President?" The portion of the story dealing with Ford's confirmation hearing does not include any reference to a pardon.

Ter Horst says Nixon did not try to pardon himself before leaving office, nor did he grant pardons to anyone else.

NYT 10 Aug 74, p. 1, Lesley Oelsner; SFC 10 Aug 74

ACLU calls for Nixon's impeachment even though he has resigned; cites Senate ruling in 1876 that resignation did not preclude impeachment proceedings, ruling against former Secretary of War William W. Belknap, who was impeached and acquitted.

SFC 10 Aug 74 [AP]

Impeachment (after resignation) - See entry, ACLU.

Nixons (on flight to California) - Plane is over Missouri when Ford takes oath of office. Nixon is in his private compartment, does not listen to Ford's address; Mrs. Nixon is in separate compartment; Coxes apparently together elsewhere on the plane. Story is based on statements by "a spokesman" (story does not say for whom) in WX.

NYT 10 Aug 74 [UPI]

Nixon's farewell remarks to the cabinet and WH staff - text, Congressional Quarterly, Watergate, p. 770

- From column on how "the Nixon women" had "stood by him, ... ~~who~~ publicly defended him to the end" did not know "that he had lied to all Americans about knowing of the cover-up, that in fact he had instituted it.... How painful it must have been for [them] to stand behind [Nixon] ... when he said good-bye to his staff and praised the character of his parents

[Over]

(4)

without mentioning the three women on the platform who were  
still lending their support." \* MP-6

SFEx 1 Sep 74, Betty Beale

- See also entry 1 Sep 74, Mrs. Nixon.

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Resignation speech (comment) - "Both speeches [resignation and remarks today to WH staff] had this in common: He never really addressed the issue. .... In hard political terms, the problem was not that Congress was unwilling to follow his leadership; it was that Congress was poised to eject him from office, as the Congressional leaders of his own party had told him, in the starkest terms, only the preceding evening. It was as if he saw himself as a Prime Minister who had lost a vote of confidence on, say, agricultural policy, and was leaving office in the normal course of events.

"This morning, once again, it seemed as if Mr. Nixon had obliterated from his mind all the details of scandal. He joked about his inability to pay his taxes - taxes he was found to owe, long after the fact, because of deductions ruled inadmissible. He said 'we have done some things wrong in this Administration,' without once mentioning the word 'Watergate.' He even used the word 'plumbers' in another context without evident embarrassment."

NYT 10 Aug 74, p. 5, R.W. Apple Jr.

AMP-C

Nixon (mental health) - "I talked to a psychologist last night after the President's [resignation] speech, a friend of mine named Stanley Shelburne [Sheldon?], Cambridge. He sees - and I think a lot of psychologists see - President Nixon, as he put it, as a massive chronic paranoid, unable to look at what he himself has done. He didn't mention the word impeachment in the speech, and so on. I think, though, as this thing goes on a little further, I think this is going to be a book case for the psychologists."

Neil McNeil, Washington Week in Review, NPAC, 9 Aug 74  
(transcription)

Rebozo and Abplanalp arrive at San Clemente tonight. Story suggests they did not visit Nixon until 10 Aug.

See also entries 10, 12 Aug 74.

SFC 12 Aug 74 [UPI]

"The Nixon women" - See entry, Nixon's farewell remarks ....

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(A) - "The President always has the absolute last word by virtue of his constitutional power to grant reprieves, which reduce sentences, and pardons. The only exception to this is in cases of impeachment." AMP - F

WXP 6 May 73, Rufus King (WX lawyer and writer on criminal law)

(B) - For description of Haig's problems in persuading Nixon to resign, see entry 28 Apr 75, Nixon ("unstable personality").

(C) - See comment by Casper W. Weinberger, entry 21 Jul 75, Nixon farewell speech.

(D) - See entry 28 Aug 74, Nixon (pardon?).  
- See entry 8 Sep 74, Misc Notes on Pardon (Ford, during Senate confirmation hearings .... )

(E) - See entry 26 Sep 74, Nixon (self-pardon?).

(F) - U.S. Constitution, Sect. 2 - "The president ... shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment."

(G) - Description by Woodward and Bernstein of the moments before Nixon made farewell speech to members of his administration:

"The family rode down in the elevator with the President so that they could walk into the East Room together. When they emerged, Bull was waiting to escort them.... The women had been crying. Julie and Tricia's eyes were still red. [It was the first time Mrs. Nixon had appeared in public during the Nixon presidency without her hair done. Also for the first time, she wore heavy pancake makeup. It took out some of the redness, but her face, this morning, seemed to convey her whole life.] Nixon was composed.

"The East Room was overflowing. Bull began to brief the President on the location of the three television

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cameras.

"'Television?' Mrs. Nixon asked with a start. 'Who authorized television?' ....

"'I did,' the President said sharply."

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, "The Final Days,"  
p. 453.