

19 Dec 74 (C)

Tapes (custody) - Ford signs legislation giving GSA custody of all of Nixon's presidential documents during his years in office, including all tapes. Legislation would make all the material, except that dealing with national security, available for public inspection.

The law directs the GSA to take complete possession of the material and to draft regulations to accomplish several purposes, such as (UPI:) "to tell the 'full truth' about the abuses of government power related to Watergate," and "to give Mr. Nixon the tapes or materials in which the public has no interest." For other details, see entry 9 Dec, ANP-A.

SFC 20 Dec 74 [UPI]

Cover-up trial - Testimony in the trial ends, and in mid-afternoon Neal begins his summation. See clippings for quotations. Closing arguments are expected to last three days.

WXP 20 Dec 74, George Lardner Jr.

Butterfield is asked to resign, today, according to NYT 7 Jan 75; WXP gives the date as 20 Dec 74. See entry 20 Dec 74, Butterfield.

NYT 7 Jan 75, Richard Witkin

WXP 29 Dec 74, Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

19 Dec 74 (2)

Tapes (public broadcast) - Nixon lawyers file brief with Judge Gesell, asking him to allow them to appeal his ruling (5 Dec) that tapes introduced as evidence in cover-up trial may be publicly broadcast. He must approve the request before an immediate appeal can be filed, since the case technically is still pending before him; he had asked at the time that interested parties submit suggestions by 3 Jan 75 on how to avoid "overcommercialization."

Nixon's lawyers say the appeal is necessary because Gesell's earlier ruling would affect all future demands for use in criminal proceedings.

(From brief?:) "Every such demand will now have to be evaluated not simply on the basis of the limited and carefully controlled disclosure that is necessary to permit justice to be served in a criminal case, but also on the basis that any recording produced for this purpose will likely be reproduced in the form of cassettes and phonograph records ... [which could be] exploited for every purpose that may occur to the imaginative, the enterprising, or the antagonistic recipients of the copies."

The motion for appeal is filed by Nixon attorneys Herbert J. Miller Jr., Raymond G. Larroca, William H. Jeffress Jr. and R. Stan Mortenson.

WXP 20 Dec 74, Timothy S. Robinson

Edward L. Morgan is sentenced to two years, with all but four months to be served on probation.

San Rafael Independent-Journal 19 Dec 74 [UPI] A M P - A

Nixon (religion) - "Friends of Richard Nixon wouldn't be surprised to see him adopt the Catholic faith. He was raised in a devout Quaker home, but, according to his friends, he is impressed with Catholic doctrine and ritual. They say he has had a lot of time to reflect since he left the White House. He is a loner who seldom confides his innermost thoughts to his friends. But he has dropped favorable remarks about the Catholics." (Complete.)

WXP 19 Dec 74, Jack Anderson

(19 Dec 74) AMP

(A) - "Prosecutors did not ask for a specific sentence for Morgan, but took the unusual action of pointing out to the judge that Morgan had attempted to cover up his crime for several months 'by a series of serious premeditated acts' before deciding to enter his plea and admit his guilt."

Morgan could have been sentenced to five years and a \$10,000 fine for his plea to one felony count, that of conspiracy to impede, defeat and obstruct the lawful functions of the IRS.

WXP 20 Dec 74, Timothy S. Robinson

- See also other clippings 20 Dec 74 for judge's remarks.