

9 Feb 75 ①

Korff press conference - Korff holds morning press conference at San Clemente Inn, after having what he describes as talks with Nixon extending for many hours over a four-day period. (NYT and WXP. His total of four days may include a meeting this morning before the news conference - see third item below. UPI, in SFC, says Korff visited Nixon for three days. A three-day period would have begun 6 Feb.)

See clippings for accounts of this news conference, at which Korff discussed the following subjects:

- Nixon as ambassador to China, and as spokesman for Republican party. "Korff said that ... Nixon, in view of his poor 'physical and emotional health,' had no intention at present of seeking either Republican party chores or foreign policy assignments, [and that Nixon] had authorized him to make this statement in response to one by [Goldwater] that [Nixon] was interested in becoming Ambassador to China or a spokesman for the Republican party." (This is the first mention in file that it was Goldwater who said Nixon wanted to be ambassador to China.) (NYT) "'The president has no such aspirations,' Korff said. 'It will not be months, it will be years' before Mr. Nixon might seek an active participation in government." (UPI.)
- Nixon "regrets" on Watergate. "He repeatedly said to me, 'I should not have allowed a climate to reverberate that would even lead to a Watergate. I should have just acted differently. I should not have yielded to considerations. (See story for Korff's incomprehensible explanation of these "considerations.") When asked whether Nixon felt that what he had done was serious enough for him to leave office, Korff replies emphatically, "Yes. He said that 'It was wrong of me, and because of it I left office.' He said that. He said that yesterday. 'I could not,' he continued, 'subject this nation to a state of bedlam.'" (WXP.)
- Nixon's physical and emotional state. "In contrast to what some other visitors to Nixon had said recently, Mr. Korff described the former President's physical and emotional state as low. He said Nixon told him he tries to conceal his misery from many of his visitors and staff." (WXP.) "Korff described Mr. Nixon as 'a lonely, troubled

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man ' Korff said he had asked the former President to walk with him on the cliffs above the San Clemente beach today for the benefit of reporters, but that Mr. Nixon had refused. [Korff said Nixon] intended to remain in seclusion because, 'physically and emotionally, he is unable to' appear in public. 'The trauma still lingers on.'" (NYT.)

- Ford; Kissinger. "[Korff said Nixon] had ... empowered him to make a ... direct statement on his behalf, in support of President Ford. 'I have nothing but love and admiration for Jerry Ford,' [Korff quoted Nixon] as saying." (NYT.) On Kissinger, Korff quotes Nixon as saying, "I never would have selected Dr. Kissinger as national security chairman and subsequently named him Secretary of State if he were unstable . . . and it is unfortunate for Mr. Colson to say that " (WXP.)

Neither of these statements is a denial that Nixon said what Colson (7 Feb) said he said, in a conversation 18 Dec 73: "You know, Henry really is unstable at times," and, "The trouble with Jerry Ford is it would take him two years just to get up speed. ... Jerry's greatest difficulty is he couldn't control Henry Kissinger." (SFC 8 Feb 75, AP, UPI.) ^{AMP-}
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SFC, NYT, WXP [LATimes, Kenneth Reich], 10 Feb 75

Castries, St. Lucia - UPI item today from Castries: "The 100,000 inhabitants of this small, underdeveloped Caribbean island have been asked to help defray the legal expenses of former President Nixon. The appeal, published in the island's bi-weekly newspaper, The Voice, was signed by Rabbi Korff. It referred to the 'judicial coup d'etat of President Nixon and the continuous hostility toward the former President being fermented by a large and influential segment of the American media.'" (Complete.)

NYT 10 Feb 75 [UPI]

Nixon (drinking?) - Maxine Cheshire, appearing on Mike Wallace show with several others, says she has evidence Nixon was drinking heavily at Camp David,*but the WXP did not carry it because she could not find a second source.

*(no date)

(Cont'd

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Jack Anderson, also on the program, says he did write the story (do not have in file) because he was satisfied he had the proof that "Nixon was going away for long weekends up to Camp David with Bebe Rebozo . . . that they were sitting there drinking very heavily. I thought that [at] this point it becomes news."

*MP-C

SFC 8 Feb 75 [UPI]

Nixon (end of transition period) - See references for details on what Nixon will be receiving in the way of pension, allowances, etc., now that transition period is over.

SFEX 9 Feb 75, Examiner News Svcs

WXP 7 Feb 75, Douglas Watson and Leroy F. Aarons

Nixon/CIA - "Using the CIA for Political Advantage." (On Nixon's efforts to use the Bay of Pigs in attacking Edward Kennedy; use of Hunt in fabricating cables tying Kennedy administration to the Diem coup; duplicity in dealing with Helms.)

WXP 10 Feb 75, Walter Pincus

Helms - See entry, Nixon/CIA.

Korff (appeal for money for Nixon) - See entry, Castries.

Sindona is wanted by Italian authorities on two arrest warrants charging fraudulent bankruptcy and related offenses. Sindona, now in New York, "is under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service for allegedly having offered \$1-million to the re-election campaign of President Nixon in 1972."

NYT 10 Feb 75, Paul Hofmann

China - See entry, Korff press conference.

Goldwater as source (?) of hint that Nixon wants to be ambassador to China - See entry, Korff press conference, second paragraph.

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- (A) - Attribution of this statement to Goldwater may be due to carelessness of the writer; he does not quote Korff as having said this. (Later notation: see entry 28 Jan 75, Nixon Wants ...)
- (B) - Statement by Ziegler 13 Feb also does not deny that Nixon said what Colson said he said. Entry 13 Feb, second item.
- (C) - From review by George R. Reedy of book by Theodore H. White, "Breach of Faith: The Fall of Richard Nixon":
... "The transition from Haldeman to Haig covered the period from which White draws most of his material on the 'unstable personality' and the staff suspicion that Mr. Nixon was 'close to nervous breakdown' themes. The evidence includes a log of all-night telephone calls and later references to aides detecting 'excessive drinking' and 'many changes in his personality now.' Someone else looking at the same material might just come to the conclusion that he was acting like a man in deep trouble."
WXP 18 May 75, George R. Reedy