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Nixon ("unstable personality") - Undated item. Report by UPI of article by Theodore H. White in May issue of Reader's Digest, first of two parts, a condensation of White's new book, "Breach of Faith: The Fall of Richard Nixon," to be published in May.

"White gives a day-by-day account of how [Haig] and other insiders slowly and carefully persuaded Nixon he had no course but to resign. 'What the men in the White House were involved in, without ever admitting it to themselves, was the management of an unstable personality,' writes White. Starting his narrative on July 31, 1974 - eight days before Nixon announced his resignation - White describes Nixon's behavior as 'increasingly erratic,' with Haig acting as substitute President in many matters of day-to-day business....

"Haig's problem, White says, was to make Nixon realize he had to resign without triggering a determination to stay. 'If Haig could get the facts before the President clearly, he was certain that the President would act beyond himself in the national interest and resign.'" With too much pressure "'something might trigger the combat instinct in Richard Nixon . . . Haig was dealing with a time bomb which, if not defused in just the right way, might blow the course of all American history apart.'" A 112-4

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Nixon (resignation) - See entry, Nixon ("unstable  
Haig                                   "   "   "                                   personality")  
Theodore H. White                   "   "   "                                   "

McCord - Sirica reduces McCord's sentence to four months in prison. (See clipping for time already served, etc.)  
Sirica had previously reduced the sentences of Dean, A 112-3  
Magruder and Kalmbach; Colson's sentence was cut by Gesell.

Story says "three of the four men arrested with McCord" (Sturgis, Martinez, Gonzalez) were placed on probation after serving minimum terms of one year, and that Barker, having lost an appeal, must return to prison unless he gets a further stay. This conflicts with WXP 26 Feb (entry

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25 Feb (Hunt, 4 others ... ) that Sturgis must also resume serving his sentence.

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Barker, Sturgis, Martinez, Gonzalez - See entry, McCord.

Nixon (Halperin suit) - ACLU Foundation, which is representing Halperin in his suit against Nixon and others, today receives seven-page statement from Nixon. Statement says he authorized wiretaps on Halperin's phone "to protect national security information against foreign intelligence activities." The suit was originally filed May 73 against Kissinger and other former or present officials; Nixon was added as a defendant 30 Sep, after his resignation.

"In his ... answer to the District of Columbia Federal Court suit, Mr. Nixon contended that he had acted in his 'official duties' and 'broad discretion' as President, and was 'absolutely immune from civil liability therefor. He also argued that the suit by Mr. Halperin ... was 'barred by the statute of limitations.' Mr. Shattuck contended, however, that the suit charged 'fraudulent concealment of records' that was only discovered in 1973, so that the four-year time limit began running only then." A-2 P-C

"The new action [Nixon's statement?] disclosed that Mr. Nixon has retained two new lawyers for the suit - William G. Hundley, who was chief counsel for [Mitchell] in the Watergate cover-up case, and Cary Mark Feldman, of Mr. Hundley's Washington firm."

NYT 29 Apr 75, Peter Kihss

New Nixon lawyers - See entry, Nixon (Halperin suit)

William G. Hundley - "

Cary Mark Feldman - "

Halperin - "

(28 Apr 75)    (AMP)

Ⓐ- For chronology of Nixon's last 15 days as President, and the efforts made to get him to resign, see refs included with entry 9 Aug 74, Nixon (resignation).

Ⓓ- Sirica had never before reduced terms of those of the seven men convicted in the break-in itself.  
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Ⓒ- "Nixon denied without comment an allegation that he took part in a cover-up of the wiretapping of Halperin and others by having information concerning the taps removed from FBI files and stored in the White House....

"The suit ... is to go to trial in September or October before U.S. District Court Judge John Lewis Smith in Washington."

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