

17 May 75 ①

Haig, Buzhardt - The New Republic, in issue out tomorrow, says Watergate special prosecutors are expected to call Haig and Buzhardt for testimony before a federal grand jury, and that they will be asked about the preparation of the edited transcripts of WH tapes released by Nixon 30 Apr 74. Prosecutor's office refuses to discuss any impending grand jury action, but confirms that an investigation is under way to determine whether federal laws were violated in the handling of the transcripts. Lawyers familiar with the criminal law say the prosecution might be difficult because the misleading of a congressional committee and government investigators, even if proved, do not seem to fall within existing criminal statutes.

WXP: "The tape of a June 23, 1972, conversation between Nixon and [Haldeman] ... was edited to omit the damaging remarks that triggered Nixon's resignation last August shortly after it and other tapes were released. The unedited tape showed that on June 23 Nixon personally ordered a cover-up of the facts about the illegal entry into the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters six days earlier on June 17, 1972. Until its release last year, Nixon contended he was not involved in the cover-up.

"Still another item of prosecution interest, the magazine said, was who destroyed an original transcript from which the edited transcripts were taken and why." Transcript is not

WXP 17 May 75, John P. MacKenzie identified.

Nixon (tapes, papers) - Special prosecutor Henry Ruth, in a memorandum filed in federal court, says his office has received additional Nixon tapes and papers, for use in criminal investigations. For that reason, memorandum says, Ruth may soon ask to withdraw as an intervenor in Nixon's efforts in court to regain custody of tapes and documents, because there would be "no reason" for him to continue in the case since he expects soon to have "substantially all the materials for which we have indicated a need." Memorandum is apparently directed to the three-judge panel handling the case.

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Editing of Nixon tapes - See entry, Haig, Buzhardt

Destruction of original transcript - " "

Special prosecutor - See entry, Haig, Buzhardt
See entry, Nixon (tapes, papers)