

NYTimes
Texts of 2 Statements and a Letter in Hoax on Tapes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 19—
Following are the texts of two announcements by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. this afternoon—that he had been notified that tapes of President Nixon's conversations at the White House with Watergate witnesses would be made available and that the call had been a hoax; and a letter from acting Attorney General Joseph T. Sneed, saying an investigation had been ordered:

First Ervin Statement

I am pleased to announce that Secretary Shultz has called me and asked, and advised me, that the President has decided to make available to the committee tapes of conversations which may have been with witnesses before the committee and which are relevant to the matters which the committee is authorized to investigate.

Secretary Shultz has further advised me that the President will meet with me at a convenient time, meet with me in my character as the chairman of the committee at a convenient time next week, and arrange procedures by which these tapes can be made available to the committee.

I am very much gratified by this information. I think the information will enable the committee to expedite its investigation, and I think it was a very wise decision on the part of the President.

Second Ervin Statement

Excuse me, I have to interrupt this. It appears that a hoax has been perpetrated upon the committee, at least upon the chairman of the committee.

I was called to the telephone just before the lunch period. I was told before I went to the telephone that Secretary of the Treasury

Shultz was calling and wanted to speak to me. I went to the telephone and a voice at the other end of the line informed me that it was Secretary of the Treasury Shultz. I am not familiar enough with the voice of the Secretary to be able to identify it and so I just assumed that the person at the other end of the line was Secretary Shultz, and he made the statement which I reported to the committee and the news media on the microphone.

In the meantime, there had been communications between counsel, White House counsel, Mr. Garment, and the staff, and Mr. Garment professed ignorance of any matters of that kind and, as I understand, an investigation was made, and Mr. Shultz, Secretary Shultz, was contacted and Secretary Shultz stated that he had no such conversation. So I had his office called and asked that he be placed on the phone, and so I was informed a few minutes ago—the reason I put it this way is because I hate to have my faith shattered in humanity, but I was called to the phone and informed or rather I was informed that Secretary Shultz was indeed on the phone, and I went to the phone and had a conversation with the man who really assured me he was the real Secretary Shultz and he informed me that he had had no conversation with me today; that whoever did it was somebody else; that the only conversation he had with me recently by telephone, is, or rather he called me yesterday to tell me that, something about the White House, the witnesses from the Secret Service.

'An Awful Thing'

So it is just an awful thing for a very trusting soul like me to find that there are human beings, if you can

call them such, who would perpetrate a hoax like this.

Additional information which I received from counsel, and which counsel assures me that they have received by telephone, and not in person, and which they believe was received from White House counsel is to the effect that the President has the request of the committee under advisement and will reach some decision about it tomorrow. So notwithstanding — early next week, yes, early next week—so notwithstanding the fact that my trust in humanity has been grossly abused by someone I am going to—and notwithstanding the fact that some people think the telephone is an instrument of the devil anyway—I am going to assume that the information which counsel received at one end of a telephone line from somebody at the other end was indeed information conveyed to them by White House counsel and that the recent information is correct.

And I trust that nobody in the future will attempt to deceive and mislead a trusting and unsuspecting individual like the chairman of this committee in any such fashion. In other words, the have had some talk about dirty tricks. I think it is a unanimous opinion of this committee that this was a right dirty trick.

Sneed Letter

My Dear Senator Ervin:

The Department of Justice has initiated an investigation into the telephone hoax in which Secretary of the Treasury Shultz was impersonated. The telephone message that you received appears to have constituted a violation of Federal law.

At the direction of the President, the resources of the Department of Justice are being employed to appre-

hend the individual or individuals responsible for this cruel and irresponsible misrepresentation.

Sincerely,
Joseph T. Sneed,
Acting Attorney General.