

Nixon Ridiculed Senate, High Courts

By Jack Anderson

Although Richard Nixon paid lip service to his affection for the Senate and his respect for the Supreme Court through the years, in private he and his top aides ridiculed both bodies.

In the Senate, one of his most loyal supporters has been Sen. Bill Brock (D-Tenn.), a bank director's son who has carried the administration's pro-industry water on Capitol Hill.

Yet, in a secret excerpt cut from the House Judiciary Committee's White House tape transcripts, Nixon referred to Brock as a "s---," according to one of those who listened to the tapes.

Though the remark was described as "unintelligible" in the transcript, a Republican listening to the tape at one session looked up on hearing the expletive and balked at the omission.

A grinning Democratic colleague responded that if his GOP friend wanted the obscenity against Brock included in the written transcript, then it would be. The Republican hastily withdrew the objection.

As to the Supreme Court, one House member who listened to the excised sections described them as "vehement and detailed characterization of the individual justices," particularly those appointed by previous Presidents. Another member said Nixon's phrases amounted to ridicule of the court as an institution, even though Nixon

named Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and three other justices to the bench.

It is Burger who, under the Constitution, presides over impeachment trials in the Senate. And it was the 8-to-0 ruling by the "Burger court" which forced President Nixon to turn over the tapes which led to his final crisis.

TV Cliffhanger—During long private sessions, the Senate Rules Committee had prepared detailed plans for making the Senate trial of President Nixon the most widely watched television event in history.

As reports of his planned resignation began, they were shifted to a pigeonhole where senators hoped they will remain forever.

The confidential plans called for five cameras, which would dislodge a few diplomats and other bigwigs from their traditional gallery seats.

From three sides of the great oval chamber, the cameras were to focus upon Chief Justice Burger presiding from the thronelike leather chair behind the marble rostrum, or the solemn senators seated in a graceful arc at their antique desks, or the lawyers and witnesses.

During the closed-door negotiations, some senators expressed concern that the cameras would concentrate on such Senate glamor figures as Ted Kennedy. But TV executives

agreed to avoid singling out special senators, and also never to show them in embarrassing poses.

The networks were to carry commercials only during recesses and natural breaks. Rules Chairman Howard Cannon (D-Nev.) had insisted that no commercial breaks should be allowed during the actual proceedings.

The TV reels, incidentally, were to be copied and stored in the Library of Congress for historical purposes.

Loony Liddy—Although G. Gordon Liddy's superiors in the White House considered him mentally unbalanced, they unleashed him against President Nixon's enemies and gave him a license, in effect, to violate the law.

White House sources say the pistol-packing Liddy, whom they called the "cowboy," was known to be a wild man. Apparently, the President learned about Liddy's reputation shortly after the Watergate break-in.

"He must be a little nuts," the President said of Liddy during a June 23, 1972, conversation with staff chief H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

"He is," Haldeman agreed.

We have previously reported that on Jan. 6, 1971, Liddy invited a few associates to watch a Nazi propaganda film, featuring Adolf Hitler, at the National Archives. Liddy became so excited over Hitler's strutting, accord-

ing to witnesses, that he rattled off a few impulsive remarks in German.

Another time, he held his hand over a flaming-candle until he burned the nerve ends to prove his manliness to a female friend. He also showed the startled wife of Republican official Robert Odle how to kill a man with a sharpened pencil.

In his home neighborhood, he once hid on a garage roof waiting for some obstreperous youths and then leaped down on them like Batman. Liddy had a fascination for firearms and placed a brace of pistols on his table before receiving a delegation of angry neighbors. While casing Sen. George McGovern's campaign headquarters for a possible burglary, Liddy whipped out a pistol and shot out a street light.

Then there was the time he misunderstood Jeb Magruder's crack that "it'd be nice if we could get rid of Jack Anderson." Liddy unhesitatingly started off to assassinate me but was stopped, happily, before he got out of the building.

Yet this same Liddy was kept on the President's payroll, with a mandate to commit burglaries, tap telephones and otherwise violate the law.

Now behind prison bars, where he promptly got into an altercation with another inmate over a hairbrush, Liddy has become known as the silent man of Watergate.

© 1974, United Features Syndicate