

12 Nov 73

- Sirica announces terms of agreement between WH and the prosecutors, including WH agreement to submit to the court by 20 Nov an analysis and index of all the subpoenaed material, and the actual tapes.

SFC 13 Nov 73 [NYT] - E 12 Nov 73

- Bull phones Secret Service, asking that Uher 5000 recorder be picked up from his office and modified so that it could not record at all. (Testimony 16 Jan 74 of Louis Sims, chief of technical service division of Secret Service.) *

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP] - E 12, 16 Jan 74

13 Nov 73

- John Bennett says this was the day he took the tape to technicians of the National Security Agency to have them make copies of it; two copies were made in his presence and the original never was out of his sight. The original was sealed in a box 14 Nov and 16 Nov was handed to Buzhardt for delivery to U.S. District Court (see 19 Nov). The first copy was signed over to Buzhardt 14 Nov. The second copy was kept in WH safe until 29 Nov, when it was sent to Sirica.

WXP 16 Jan 74, Claiborne - E 13 Nov 73

*Sims testifies 17 Jan that Bull asked for the modification 9 Nov, and the Secret Service modified the machine 12 Nov.

WXP 18 Jan 74, Lardner

14 Nov 73

- This is the day, according to Higby's testimony, that he had a phone conversation with Haldeman, then in California; no indication who initiated call. Higby says that in this conversation - around noon - Haldeman (WXP's wording) "told him of the missing segment." Higby: "I think he said it had been caused by Miss Woods." Higby says Haldeman might have first mentioned the missing segment to him in the course of another phone call on the evening of 15 Nov, but says he thinks it was "the day before."

If Miss Woods was truthful in later testimony, it was on 1 Oct that she told Nixon of her "terrible mistake," and Haldeman could have learned of this through Nixon. She did not testify to this until 26 Nov, and would not take responsibility for more than 5½ minutes of the gap. Had not mentioned ~~the~~ any of this in earlier testimony and at that time had been very irritated when Jill Vollner asked her what precautions she had taken to ensure that nothing was erased from the tape, saying she would not have made such a mistake.

SFC 5 Dec 73 [WXP] - E 4 Dec 73; SFC 9 Nov 73 [NYT]

- This is the date John Bennett says one of the two copies of the tape was signed over to Buzhardt.

WXP 16 Jan 74, Claiborne - E 13 Nov 73, 4

- This is the date Buzhardt says he discovered that 18-minute segment is defective, when he and other Nixon lawyers were playing back the [copy of?] tape to compile index. (Lardner, WXP 6 Dec, says discovery was made in the evening.)

SFC 22 Nov 73 [WXP] - E 14 Nov 73, 21 Nov 73, 1

- Two hand-written notes by John Bennett (evidence released by court 30 Nov) say there were 'two aborts' on tapes of Nixon-Dean conversations, 15 Sep 72 and 13 Mar 73. "The word 'abort' was not explained, although Bennett's notes showed that while laboratory technicians were making copies of the two tapes, the two tapes were, quote, 'tested unsuccessfully.' The same notes indicate, quote 'did test in R's office. No joy.' [No date.] Further, on [14 Nov] Bennett wrote that he entered the White House vault and, quote 'deposited three aborted tapes, extracted briefcase of contents except three aborts left in safe." No date for third "abort."

KPFA News 30 Nov 73 - E 30 Nov 73, 1

15 Nov 73

- "Haig said he told Haldeman of the gap that same night [15 Nov] in a phone call to California which Haig said he placed because no one at the White House could find the combination to the lock Haldeman had put on his closely guarded files. 'I told him we had a problem and what that problem was,' Haig said. 'I told him we should have that combination - at the White House and no place else.'"

WXP 6 Dec 73, Lardner - E 4 Dec 73, AMP B

- Higby testified Haldeman called him this evening, instructing him to get Haldeman's notes for 20 Jun 72, from files in Room 522, EOB, guarded by the Secret Service; instructions were for Higby to see Haig before getting the notes, but not to give WH officials any of them without first reporting back to Haldeman with a summary of what they contained. When Higby read the notes to Haldeman, Haldeman said "that's no problem," and (WXP's wording) "after getting the go-ahead from Haldeman" he turned the two pages of notes over to Haig and Buzhardt (WXP:) "who by then had turned up at Room 522."

SFC 5 Dec 72 [WXP] - E 4 Dec 73, 1

16 Nov 73

- This is the date John Bennett said he gave Buzhardt original tape (sealed in box 14 Nov) for delivery to U.S. District Court; deadline for delivery 20 Nov.

WXP 16 Jan 74, Claiborne - E 13 Nov 73, 4

19 Nov 73

- WH asks Sirica for delay in surrendering tapes and documents because one of its lawyers, Samuel J. Powers, is hospitalized with pneumonia in Miami; Sirica grants delay until 26 Nov.

SFC 20 Nov 72 [UPI] - E 19 Nov 73, 1

20? Nov 73 ("Eight days later" than date of 12 Nov mentioned in preceding paragraph of story)

- "Eight days later [, Louis Sims said,] he received a request from Buzhardt that the recorder [by inference, UHer 5000] be picked up from his office and restored to its original shape [presumably so that it would be capable of recording]."

SFC 17 Jan 74 [AP] - E 16 Jan 74

20 Nov 73

- Buzhardt testified that WH conducted "a large number of technical tests" with the tape 20 Nov, but all were "unsuccessful."

SFC 22 Nov 73 [WXP]

- Haig testified about a WH meeting held this evening and said that at this point WH lawyers were convinced that Rose Mary Woods could not have caused (all of?) the two-toned humming noise on the tape. WXP: "As a result, he said, they discussed the possibility that 'perhaps there had been one tone applied by Miss Woods . . . and then perhaps some sinister force had come in and applied the other energy source and taken care of the information on that tape.'"

SFC 7 Dec 73 [WXP] - E 6 Dec 73, 1

21 Nov 73

- Buzhardt goes to Jaworski's office (before appearance in court) to ask for a delay in releasing the news that a segment of tape is obliterated; Jaworski refuses.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [WXP] - E 21 Nov 73, AMP A

- Buzhardt, in court, tells Sirica of defect in tape. AMP-A
Sirica orders Nixon to turn over, by 26 Nov, all existing tapes subpoenaed by Cox, to be held for safekeeping at U.S. courthouse. (WXP: "Sirica had been planning to leave the original recordings in White House custody until a panel of experts completed a series of tests, ... a process that is expected to take several weeks.")

SFC 22 Nov 73 [WXP] - E 21 Nov 73, 1

- Buzhardt and Garment meet with Jaworski in Sirica's chambers (unclear whether before or after court session), after which Rose Mary Woods is subpoenaed.

SFC 28 Nov 73 [LATimes] - E 21 Nov 73, AMP B

22 Nov 73

- Rose Mary Woods consults "an outside lawyer," Charles S. Rhyne.

SFC 26 Nov 73 [LATimes] - E 25 Nov 73, 1

25 Nov 73

- LATimes, in undated story, says unnamed high administration source says (no date) that Rose Mary Woods is prepared to testify that she erased 18-minute segment.

SFC 26 Nov 73 [LATimes] - E 25 Nov 73, 1

26, 27 Nov 73

- Rose Mary Woods testifies, giving explanation of how she might have caused part of the erasure of the tape; insists on both days she could not have been responsible for more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ minutes of the erasure.

SFC 27 Nov 73 [WXP]; SFC 28 Nov 73 [LATimes]

28 Nov 73

- Buzhardt testified that after 14 Nov, when he discovered defect in the tape, he and others (unnamed) made a number of "tests," trying to duplicate - on a tape - the buzzing sound. The latest test was made today. Buzhardt says that in one of the tests he was able to duplicate the sound; there is no indication that he produced the tape to prove it.

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT] - E 29 Nov 73, 1

29 Nov 73

- Copy of tape turned over to Sirica today. Original had been given to him 26 Nov 73.

WXP 16 Jan 74, Claiborne - E 13 Nov 73

- Buzhardt, in testimony today, "[repeats] the contention that the White House first learned of the full extent of the 18-minute gap on November 14." Miss Woods having testified 26 Nov that she told Nixon 1 Oct of her "terrible mistake," involving only 5½ minutes, perhaps "full extent" is the point Buzhardt is making here.

Buzhardt testifies that WH explanation of the erasure which he gave in court 26 Nov, was "not a real certainty" but, instead, "just a possibility." NYT: "The disclosure ... that the White House explanation was 'just a possibility' took many spectators by surprise for it had seemed clear that the White House meant to place on Miss Woods the full blame for the 18-minute gap."

SFC 30 Nov 73 [NYT] - E 29 Nov 73, 1

AMP

(A) - In court Buzhardt does not mention what he told Sirica in chambers, that the erasure "could not have been accidental." (Unclear whether before or after court session.)

Newsweek 10 Dec 73, p. 28