

HERB CAEN



... as
... as a gift
... which we would run the
... sessions free." Anyway, things are

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SCOOP: Whenever there's a crisis, people rush for their Holy Bibles to find appropriate references, wherefore we congratulate Duffy Bradshaw and Alan Winslow for being the first of many to discover the following, under Nehemiah, Verse 1: "And all the people proceeded to gather themselves as one man at the public square that was before the Water Gate. Then they said to Ezra the copyist to bring the book of the law..."

There you have it, first word of the special prosecutor to be named by Elliot Richardson. Anybody around here know Ezra's last name?

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MORE ON SAME: Instead of checking the Bible, Nina Blake turned to the 1948 edition of the UCLA yearbook, "Southern Campus," and was rewarded with a photo, on the Beta Theta Pi page, captioned "Bob 'Happy Harry' Haldeman, the guy with the horrible haircut." Plus this in the section of graduating seniors: "Pulling wires behind the scenes has kept Kappa Sig John Ehrlichman out of the limelight but he was a potent political figure nonetheless." (Sodden thought: Haldeman must have known what trouble bugs can cause. After all, he used to handle insecticide accounts for J. Walter Thompson).

Truth is stranger and also funnier than fiction note: Wednesday, Walter McCall of Stockton cracked me up by commenting wryly, "Even with so much evidence, I refuse to believe the Watergate bunch engineered the McGovern nomination." Yesterday, the New York Times sprang a story indicating "the Watergate bunch" indeed worked for McGovern's nomination as Nixon's weakest opponent.

As for all the bewilderment over motives — "Why pull such a silly caper when Nixon was miles ahead anyway?" — Charles Rozema reminds us that at the time Watergate was being formulated, Nixon was in what looked like a hard fight. Muskie was then the leading Democratic contender, not having wept publicly, and George Wallace had not been knocked out of the race by a sniper's bullet. The closest pertinent poll showed a tough three-way race in the making with Nixon and Muskie tied at 43 per cent, Wallace with 13, McGovern nowhere.

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