

transcribed from tape

[Don Folsom, from the White House:]

James J. Kilpatrick, the conservative newspaper columnist who spent some 80 minutes alone with the President in the Oval Office on Tuesday [14 May], says Mr. Nixon has lost some of the edge of sharp incisiveness he exhibited a few years ago. Kilpatrick reports that the interview was more like a monologue, that the President tended to run off on tangents and that he failed to complete many sentences. But Kilpatrick also notes that Mr. Nixon looked well and strong, and claimed during their talk that he sleeps very well and has been able to survive Watergate without tingling nerves and a churning stomach.

Kilpatrick's was the first one-on-one Presidential news interview since the eve of the 1972 election.

Don Folsom, at the White House.