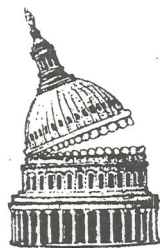


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CAPITOL CHATTER

According to Woodward and Bernstein's upcoming book, *The Final Days*, David Eisenhower became so concerned about his father-in-law's mental health in the summer of '74 that he called Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.) and asked him to urge Nixon to resign. Apparently Nixon had taken to saying good night to all the portraits of former presidents hanging on the second floor of the White House.

Eisenhower and Edward Cox are two thinly disguised sources for the book (for which *Newsweek* reportedly paid six figures for first-serial rights). Julie Eisenhower has already denied the story, adding that there are nothing but landscapes on the second floor of the White House.

★★★

Some of the Watergate gang is still hanging around Washington, and it would appear that one of them has not forgotten his old ways. Ex-Plumber (and ex-con) Egil Krogh, who headed the team charged with plugging White House leaks, now works for Congressman Pete McCloskey (R-Cal.), and frequents Hill-type cocktail parties. Arriving at one such party, he found the door locked. The revelers inside were so noisy that no one heard him knocking, but he had been given a combination to the complicated series of antiburglar locks securing the

front door. Surprisingly, Krogh, who got six months for masterminding the Ellsberg break-in, couldn't work the locks. After trying several times he gave up—and did what any ex-Plumber would do: tried to break in.

Apparently Krogh had visited the apartment before and knew that the hostess sometimes cooked on an adjoining patio. He also knew of a fire escape that led up one floor and down again to this patio. He went to the courtyard of the apartment complex, hoisted himself onto the confusing fire escape and found himself face to face with an apartment tenant who was barbecuing on the patio—but it wasn't the right tenant, it wasn't the right patio, it wasn't even the right building.

The tenant was Richard Benveniste, a former prosecuting attorney in the Watergate case who lives in the building next

door. "Hello, Bud," Benveniste said. "What are you doing on my patio?"

"Gee, hiya Rick," Krogh said. "You won't believe this, but I'm looking for a party."

So Benveniste took the ex-Plumber inside and directed him down the stairs to try again.

★★★

The imperial presidency apparently was not just a concept to Richard Nixon—it was a reality. According to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Cal.), Nixon was trying to stave off impeachment during the summer of 1974 by inviting small groups of loyal House Republicans to meet privately with him at the Oval Office. At one such meeting, Cranston was told, Nixon tried to impress the congresspersons with his foreign policy accomplishments and power. Said Nixon: "I could pick up that phone right now and in 25 minutes, 70 million people would be dead." Such frightening language may have been responsible for former secretary of defense James Schlesinger's unusual order to all military command that any instructions from Nixon would have to be cleared through Schlesinger.

THE WIZARD

⊗ In New Hampshire (February 24th), Carter edged for first place and Udall scrambled for second place. In New Hampshire, Florida, and Derby?

See SFChronicle 7 Feb 76 for other refs.