

17 Apr 73 (D)

Nixon, at "hurriedly summoned" press conference, says that he began new investigation 21 Mar, "as a result of serious charges which came to my attention;" says he will permit ~~NY Times 18 Apr 73~~ limited testimony by White House aides before Senate investigating committee. ~~Ziegler~~ Ziegler says Nixon's past statements denying any involvement by aides are now "inoperative," and specifically refuses to repeat his comment of 24 March in which he said Nixon retained full confidence in Dean.

NYT 18 Apr 73

Ken Clawson, according to transcript of a phone conversation with Ehrlichman on this date (one of two transcripts of Ehrlichman phone calls turned over to Ervin committee 30 [?] Jul 73 mentioned by WXPost), tells Ehrlichman he will "recollect anything you want me to" about a meeting 19 or 20 Jun 72 to discuss what should be done with the contents of Hunt's safe. Colson and Dean also present at this meeting. Clawson also says he remembers an earlier meeting (unclear whether he means earlier on 19 or 20 Jun, or an earlier meeting before these dates) "in which the question was should we give out Hunt's dates of employment and what Charley's role was in hiring him." "Charley" presumably refers to Colson. (Second transcript was of call

WXP 31 Jul 73

to Colson)

Colson, in phone conversation with Ehrlichman (see Clausen entry, above) says he was the one "who said go get Hunt's safe and be sure its preserved for the FBI." (Unclear whether this is the truth or whether he and Ehrlichman are cooking up a story.) In this conversation Colson also says, of Dean, "Let's get it clearly understood that son of a bitch doesn't get immunity. I want to nail him."

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Gray calls Petersen 9.00 a.m. and they meet later/in Gray's office. Gray tells Petersen Dean had given him "two white manila files," that he had not read what was in them and had burned them. Petersen says prosecutors will want Gray to testify before grand jury; Gray says he is willing.

NYT 4 Aug 73 - excerpts from Gray testimony

p. 12, col 8

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Haldeman testifies (30, 31 Jul 73) he listened to two tapes of Nixon-Dean meetings; listened to that of 21 Mar 73 in the latter part of Apr 73, but is uncertain whether this was before or after 17 Apr. See entry 22 Aug 73, p. 3.

From
Executive privilege -/Nixon statement on ground rules for Ervin committee: "I believe now an agreement has been reached which is satisfactory to both sides. The committee ground rules as adopted totally preserve the doctrine of separation of powers. They provide that the appearance by a witness may, in the first instance, be in executive session, if appropriate. Second, executive privilege is expressly reserved and may be asserted during the course of the questioning as to any questions."

A spokesman for Weicker says Nixon's statement is in accord only with an initial set of guidelines approved by the committee yesterday, ~~and~~ that later the guidelines were revised to exclude the possibility of executive privilege, and that Weicker would not accept executive sessions.

Apple, commenting on Nixon statement: "As indicated by the President, the committee meetings will be formal, but they may be 'in the first instance' in executive session - that is, in secret - 'if appropriate.' Further, as he stated things, staff members may reassert executive privilege 'as to any question' during the meetings. Thus it appeared that if there were any conflict it would come when specific questions that the White House did not wish to answer were asked."

NYT 18 Apr 73, text of Nixon statement

NYT 18 Apr 73, R.W. Apple Jr.

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Haldeman and Ehrlichman hire same lawyer, John J. Wilson. Nixon offers them \$200,000-to-\$300,000 from secret fund maintained by Rebozo, for attorneys' fees and family support; not accepted by either.

WXP 5 Dec 74, Lardner

- Nixon repeats offer 25 Apr 73.