

10 Dec 73 (1)

Nixon (taxes) - Rep. Wilbur D. Mills will head investigation by Senate-House Joint Committee on Internal Taxation of Nixon tax returns; committee is charged specifically with ruling on legality of Nixon's tax free sale of land adjoining his San Clemente property (profit, \$117,370), and the deduction of \$576,000 for giving vice presidential papers to the National Archives. Committee is composed of five senators and five representatives, of whom six are Democrats and four are Republicans.

California Franchise Tax Board will include the question of Nixon's tax status on the agenda for its meeting 11 Dec.

White House sources say if the two hearings go against Nixon he may have to pay \$296,333 in federal taxes and between \$15,000 and \$16,000 in California taxes.

SFC 10 Dec 73 [UPI]

- Sen. Russell B. Long says the Joint Committee may go beyond the two areas Nixon asked it to study (see above) and conduct a complete audit of his tax returns.

SFC 11 Dec [WXP]

ITT, milk fund, plumbers operation - Warren says Nixon wants to present Congress and the public with reports on these cases, before congressmen go home for the Christmas recess.

SFC 11 Dec 73

Nixons, Hughes, Watergate - Ervin committee is investigating the possibility that Watergate break-in was an attempt to discover if Lawrence O'Brien had any damaging information linking Hughes and Nixon administration. For details see story, which involves Rebozo, Hughes, F. Donald Nixon, Edward Nixon, Henry Greenspun, John Meier, and allegations that Hughes expected special benefits for the Hughes Tool Corp. (listed). Comments by Terry Lenzner at Ervin committee executive session 4 Dec "indicate that the Watergate break-in may have been generated by the same concern that caused an earlier ... attempt to burglarize the safe of ... Henry Greenspun." Story says committee staff's investigation of a possible connection between Hughes-Nixon relationship and Watergate break-in indicates the committee still is not satisfied it has been given an adequate explanation of Watergate break-in.

SFC 11 Dec 73 [no attribution]

10 Dec 73 (2)

Tapes - Sirica turns over to Jaworski tape of conversations excerpted from WH tapes and re-recorded on a single reel; the dates involved are 13 Mar 73 (Nixon, Dean, Haldeman) and 22 Mar 73 (Nixon, Dean, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Mitchell).

Jaworski says that, in response to his requests, WH lawyers delivered 8 Dec a "significant number of tape recordings" and a "substantial number of documents;" does not say what they concern.

Warren also refuses to identify this material, says, "We have been cooperating with the special prosecutor in a private way as rational men seeking the same goal. We prefer to maintain confidentiality." Says WH is cooperating "completely" with Jaworski and that the special prosecutor believes his investigation will be "wrapped up soon."

SFC 11 Dec 73 [NYT]

Impeachment - House Judiciary Committee Republicans agree in closed caucus to press for "expeditious action" on possible impeachment of Nixon.

SFC 11 Dec 73 [no attribution]

Saxbe - Nixon submits Saxbe nomination to Senate.

SFC 11 Dec 73 [UPI]

Dr. Thomas Matthew (Small Business Administration) - Curtis Prins, chief investigator for the House Banking Committee, says the White House organized a number of federal agencies to provide \$1.8 million in aide to Dr. Matthew, then attempted to quash an investigation when he committed "grand larcenies" with the federal money. Dr. Matthew was considered by Nixon a prime example of "black capitalism." He had been jailed on tax evasion charges but was freed in 1969 (no precise date) by a presidential pardon. Prins produces testimony by Matthews at private hearing, SEC, 9 Jun 69, that Nixon had told Matthew personally he would give his "fullest cooperation" to black capitalism. See NYT 11 Dec 73 for more detailed story.

SFC 11 Dec 73; NYT 11 Dec 73

Executive privilege - See ANP-A (entry on Tapes, above).

10 Dec 73 (3)

Nixon (sense of timing) - "From the beginning of his time of trouble, Mr. Nixon has seemed to make gestures to public indignation at precisely the point when those gestures had lost their power to soothe. Had he forced the resignations of H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman a week or so earlier, had he given in to the clamor for a news conference a month or two earlier, had he released the tapes before motorists were honking their horns for impeachment, he might have created an impression of openness and willingness to do anything to clear his name. Instead, ... he has appeared to yield grudgingly and, on occasion, to suggest that he had a good deal to hide."

SFC 10 Dec 73 [NYT, Apple]

Nixon - Review of Frank Mankiewicz' book, "Perfectly Clear: From Whittier to Watergate," by William Hogan, who describes it as an "analysis and indictment of Nixon politics over a quarter century."

SFC 11 Dec 73, William Hogan; filed Nixon.

Impeachment - Helen Gahagan Douglas calls for impeachment of Nixon, giving as reasons Watergate and secret bombing of Cambodia.

SFC 12 Dec 73 [AP]

Gallup poll of 1536 adults, taken 7-10 Dec, published 7 Jan 74, on Nixon popularity. In final poll for 1973 Nixon's job rating has dropped from high point of 68 per cent in late Jan to low of 29 per cent, two points above low point to date.* Average for five years shows steady decline in approval from 62 per cent in 1969 to 42 per cent in 1973.

SFC 7 Jan 74

*Gallup says this decline represents the sharpest recorded for any President since these measurements were first taken during Roosevelt's presidency.

10 Dec 73 (4)

Time Magazine:

The secretary and the tapes tangle
("At home she often listens to music, using what a frequent visitor describes as 'a really good tape system.'")
Failings of "somebody very close" (on Nixon)
by Hugh Sidey
The fuse burns ever closer (on Krogh, Chapin)
Lost momentum and broken unity (on Ervin committee)

Newsweek:

Rose Mary's boo-boo
Doing the twist while erasing the tape
Youth squad at work (on Jill Vollner and Richard Ben-Veniste)
Lots to be candid about
The Vesco connection
The \$100,000 coincidence

Nixon/Woods - "'The President,' said one/^{man}intimate with both him and Miss Woods, 'is at the point of devouring his own children.'"

Newsweek 10 Dec 73, p. 32

- "The trouble with Republicans is that when they get in trouble they start acting like cannibals."

Richard N. Nixon, 1958 - Congressional Quarterly,

Vol. 1, p. 45.

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Ⓐ - Unclear whether re-recording was prepared at Sirica's direction for Jaworski's use, or whether the reel was received by Sirica already re-recorded. Sirica says that (in NYT's paraphrase) "the two conversations had not been subject to claims of executive privilege by Mr. Nixon." (Executive privilege was not - or could not have been? - claimed?)