

8 Mar 74

Nixon (possibility of rash action) - From column by Jack Anderson and Les Whitten:

"Our stories were denied and denounced when we warned in early 1974 that a darkly brooding Richard Nixon might attempt something desperate.

"We wrote of his agony over Watergate, of his drinking bouts at Camp David, of his suicidal recklessness in Egypt, of a chilling remark about his power to plunge the world into a nuclear holocaust, of H.R. Haldeman's backroom talk about 'one-man rule' and Nixon's 'right' to run the country.

"By the summer of 1974, we reported that Nixon's behavior so alarmed Pentagon leaders that then-Defense Secretary James Schlesinger took quiet precautions to prevent the White House from bypassing the chain of command and issuing unauthorized orders to the armed forces.

....

"The secret minutes of a March 8, 1974, strategy session, for example, quote him as blurting out:

"'I could push this button right here and in 20 minutes, 70 million Russians would be dead. And 25 minutes later, 70 million Americans would be dead.' Then he added, almost as an afterthought, that 'we must do everything in our power to get along with the Soviets.'"

....

"There was worry in the policy councils, we reported, that Nixon might attempt to seize emergency powers. "

WXP 2 Apr 76, Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

- See entry 24 Aug 74, same heading, which includes other refs. See entry 1 Aug 74, Nixon (emergency powers).