

3 Jun 74 ○

Colson pleads guilty to a charge that he created and implemented a scheme to defame Ellsberg and those engaged in Ellsberg's defense in Pentagon Papers trial. Plea is made at hearing in Judge Gesell's court, on motion by WH to quash subpoenas by him and Ehrlichman for portions of their WH files. (See entry 31 May, Ehrlichman, Colson.)

"This plea, to a charge which was not in the original indictment, marks the end of criminal proceedings against [Colson]. In exchange for Colson's cooperation and testimony, possibly against Nixon himself, all charges in both this case and the Watergate cover-up case have been dropped by the special prosecutor's office."

Colson to be sentenced ~~12~~ 21 Jun. Maximum sentence is five years and \$5,000 fine.

See transcript of KPFA News for exchange between Colson and Judge Gesell, and clippings of 4 Jun for Colson statement.

KPFA News 3 Jun 74 [Pacifica, WX]

SFC 4 Jun 74

- Sen. Harold E. Hughes says the steps that led to Colson's decision to plead guilty "started about a week or ten days ago ...." (24 to 27 May.)

SFC 4 Jun 74 [WXP, Bernstein and Woodward]

Impeachment politics - According to Jack Anderson, Nixon invited a dozen conservative congressmen to a dinner cruise on the Sequoia "the other evening," and urged them to take a stand on impeachment, and to vote against it if they think he is innocent. "He reportedly fears many representatives may try to get off the hook by casting a procedural vote for impeachment. They could explain they didn't mean to judge the President but merely wanted to bring the case before the Senate for a decision. This rationale could produce an overwhelming House vote in favor of impeachment. The psychological impact, he is said to feel, could influence Senators to vote to remove him from office."

WXP 3 Jun 74, Jack Anderson

AMP - A  
- B

Ford's "zigzags" on the tapes. See entry 1 Jun.

3 Jun 74 (2)

Jaworski/Supreme Court/Nixon - Alexander M. Bickel: "Whatever the political realities of the moment, which are not immutable, the President has the ultimate legal power to decide whether or not Mr. Jaworski shall have what he seeks, because the President has the legal power to repeal the promises he made to Mr. Jaworski, and then discharge him. And the President will retain the legal power to discharge Mr. Jaworski and get himself a more congenial and less tape-thirsty prosecutor even should the Supreme Court hold that Mr. Jaworski has standing to sue and is entitled to the tapes. .... If I am right thus far, then [this] means that a Supreme Court decision against the President could be lawfully frustrated by him - not illegally disobeyed, but lawfully nullified."

(See also article by Bickel on this subject, and article in reply by Paul M. Bator, 23 and 30 May 74, NYT.)

NYT 3 Jun 74, letter to the editor by Alexander M. Bickel.

Nixon (possible defiance of Supreme Court) - See entry, Jaworski/Supreme Court/Nixon.

(3 Jun 74)    AMP

Ⓐ - WXP survey of "two dozen senators and top aides" shows that "Although President Nixon's Senate support is far less solid than it was a few months ago, the Senate would reject a move to oust him from office ... if the vote were held today. .... The consensus of the Senate's best vote-counters, both Republican and Democratic, is that such a move would fail by 12 to 17 votes." See clipping for details.  
WXP 3 Jun 74, Spencer Rich

Ⓑ - Anderson says this is "the second time in two weeks that [Nixon] has taken conservative congressmen on a dinner cruise as part of his effort to gain support against impeachment."