

4 to 10 Aug 74

Nixon-defendants, cover-up case - "TIME did learn ... that all last week [week of 4 to 10 Aug] negotiations went on between lawyers of some cover-up defendants and the White House in hopes of arranging a pardon. Then at the last minute, said a source close to one defendant, 'Nixon screwed us,' and, properly and wisely, nothing was done for his former aides and agents."

Time magazine 19 Aug 74 (filed 12 Aug), p. 39
- Nixon-Haldeman transcripts of 23 Jun 72 released 5 Aug 74.

4 Aug 74 (1)

To Camp David, late afternoon: St. Clair, Haig, Ziegler, AMP-A
speech writers Buchanan and Raymond Price. This is a Sunday. -B
Warren says Nixon plans to return to WH no later than -C
tomorrow.

SFC 5 Aug 74 [NYT]

Nixon-Haldeman - CBS News says 5 Aug that Dan Rather has reported that administration sources have told him one purpose of Nixon's conference today with St. Clair and speech writers was to consider the advisability of possibly issuing a news statement in which Nixon would separate his defense from that of Haldeman.

CBS News, 5 Aug 74, transcript

Haldeman - See entry, Nixon-Haldeman.

Haig, late this afternoon, phones Rep. Rhodes, House Republican leader. Rhodes had promised to announce tomorrow how he would vote on the Articles of Impeachment, and Haig urges him "very strongly" to postpone his announcement; Rhodes asks why, but Haig will give no details, saying only "You will know all you need to know tomorrow."

NYT 12 Aug 74, James M. Naughton and others

Rhodes - See entry, Haig, late this afternoon

Resignation, 25th Amendment - See entry, To Camp David, and AMP A, B.

Kissinger - See AMP-D.

Korff - According to Providence Journal-Bulletin (6 Oct 74), Korff says this was the day he was summoned to Washington by the Nixon family, and that he tried to convince them, and Nixon, that Nixon should not resign. Had private conversation with Nixon 6 Aug; see entry that date, Korffx
~~Nixon~~ meets with Nixon, and AMP-I. AMP-G

WXP 7 Oct 74 [AP]

Nixon (pardon?) - See entry, Korff, According to

4 Aug 74 (2)

Nixon (phlebitis) - From story on press briefings at San Clemente during Nixon's stay there (12 to 28 Jul): "Hunter Thompson, ... correspondent for Rolling Stone, inquired about the President's health. "Jerry," he said to Warren, 'I continue to worry about that God damn clot. I wonder: Earlier you were asked about the 14 holes of golf he played the other day. That is unusual. Here is a man who was a basket case or almost on the verge of being a basket case a week ago. Is it your position that there is no longer any reason to worry about the clot?'" Warren's answer is that "it has been stated quite often that the matter of the phlebitis has resolved itself." Date of this briefing not given.

SFC 4 Aug 74 [LATimes, Bill Boyarsky]

Tape gap (17 Apr 73) - Time magazine says that in this tape, one of the 30 turned over to Sirica last week, there is a gap of five minutes, 12 seconds, between the end of one reel and the beginning of another. The conversation is one involving Nixon, Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

"Time also quoted retired Major General John G. Bennett, who guarded the tapes for almost a year, as saying 'I have a feeling that somewhere along the line someone messed with those tapes.'"

SFC 5 Aug 74 [AP]

John G. Bennett - See entry, Tape gap.

Impeachment vote - See long, detailed article of what went on behind the scenes, Doar's working methods and how he became an "advocate" of impeachment 19 Jul 74, how the "fragile centrist bloc" of seven Republicans and Democrats arrived at their decision to vote for impeachment, etc. AMP - E

Doar, in final summation to HJC, 19 Jul 74: "You don't go forward in serious matters unless you are satisfied in your mind and heart and judgment that, legally and factually, reasonable men acting reasonably would find the accused guilty of the crime as charged."

NYT 5 Aug 74, James M. Naughton and others

Doar - See entry, Impeachment vote.

4 Aug 74 (3)

Nixon (possibility of rash [military] action) - See entry
5 Aug 74, same heading.

(4 Aug 74) AMP (A)

(A) - Naughton says only Haig and Ziegler "had direct access to the President in his rustic Aspen Lodge."

"In a nearby cabin [St. Clair, Buchanan and Price] debated for five hours the wording of the statement that President Nixon would issue on Monday [5 Aug] along with the three June 23 transcripts. At 7 p.m. they returned by helicopter to Washington."

NYT 12 Aug 74, Naughton and others

(B) - WXP says Nixon brought up the possibility of resignation at this meeting, and also discussed* use of the 25th amendment. Unnamed "source" "said the President had given his greatest consideration to invoking the 25th Amendment," but "appeared to be the only person who thought [this] option worthy of serious consideration." (Second phrase appears to be attributed to a different "source.") St. Clair, Haig, Buchanan and Price "all opposed the idea." Ziegler's opinion is not mentioned.

"Mr. Nixon told his aides he is not prepared to resign at this time and questioned Buchanan and St. Clair about the accuracy of their grim impeachment assessment. 'He wasn't quite prepared to accept how bad it really is,' the source said, and added: 'He wouldn't believe all of this'" AMP.
WXP 6 Aug 74, p. 14, Lou Cannon and David S. Broder

*"The 25th Amendment alternative was raised by the President after St. Clair and Buchanan brought up the option of outright resignation." Nixon, in intv by James J. Kilpatrick 14 May (published 17 May 74), said, "I would have to rule out the rather fatuous suggestion that I take the 25th Amendment"

(C) - "Haig, St. Clair and their few allies walked on eggs through the last weekend at Camp David, responding instead of telling, implying more than explaining. With his family gathered around him, all of whom wanted to fight it out, Nixon still did not believe that beyond the White House cocoon the world had turned so hard against him."

Time magazine, 19 Aug 74 (filed 12 Aug), p. 15B

(B)

(4 Aug 74) AMP (2)

①- "The President, well-placed sources told Newsweek, ~~was~~ ... showed no keen sense of how swiftly the tide was running against him. He begged for more time - just a month more, to arrange an orderly exit or to devise some new strategy for his trial. But Haig pressed for an immediate decision. Haig even enlisted Kissinger in the cause, getting him on the line and bearing his arguments to the chief."
Newsweek 19 Aug 74 (filed 12 Aug), p. 19

②- Time span covered is from 23 Oct 73, when Rodino was instructed to begin inquiry on impeachment of Nixon, to 27 Jul 74, when vote was taken on Article I.

③- See 19 Jul 74, AMP-F.

④- Story does not say if this is the day he arrived in WX or the day he was summoned. The Nixon family left for Camp David 3 Aug; see entry that date, Nixon goes to