

20 Oct 74 (C)

Nixon (custody of tapes and papers) - "A notable element in President Ford's House testimony was the colder view he took of Richard Nixon. He played down the element of sympathy in the pardon decision. He said Mr. Nixon had left office in 'shame and disgrace,' and had as good as admitted his guilt in taking the pardon.

"Public acceptance of that view would help Mr. Ford get the Nixon problem behind him and turn the country to other pressing issues. But the trouble is that Mr. Nixon will not play. He insists on acting the part of an honorably retired President entitled to every dollar and privilege afforded others - a man more sinned against than sinning.

"Within hours of Mr. Ford's visit to Capitol Hill, Mr. Nixon sent the White House a delightful reminder that he will not be so easy to forget. He sued to get custody of all his papers and tapes, arguing that his constitutional rights as a former President were being violated and that he alone could make the necessary delicate judgments on keeping some of the contents confidential.

"Coming from anyone else, the galvanized gall of that argument would be breathtaking. It is a claim that a man disgraced when evidence of criminality was found in official records should thereafter be given charge of those records.

....

"The problem of the Nixon papers and tapes is a significant test for Mr. Ford, for Congress and for the country. How it is handled will indicate how well we have recovered from the illusion that Richard Nixon so long worked to create - that his personal interest was the same as that of the Presidency."

NYT 21 Oct 74, Anthony Lewis

Nixon "insists on acting the part of an honorably retired President .... " See entry, Nixon (custody of tapes and papers).

20 Oct 74 (2)

Jack Anderson; Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press  
- "Mr. Nixon filed suit ... Oct 17 to have his arrangement  
with Mr. Sampson honored by the Government. Three days  
later [today?], Jack Anderson, the columnist, intervened and  
a group headed by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the  
Press filed suit for access to tapes and documents."

NYT 1 Feb 75, Anthony Ripley

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press - See entry,  
Jack Anderson.  
Suits for access to tapes and documents - " "  
- See also entry 31 Jan 75, WH tapes and  
documents.

China - NYT, datelined Hongkong: "A recent visitor to  
Peking reports having been told by Chinese officials that  
[Nixon] wrote a letter to Premier Chou at the time of his  
resignation as President. [No date given for letter.]  
Mr. Nixon was said to have expressed regret that he would  
not be able to take part in the continued improvement of  
relations between the United States and China. Premier  
Chou .... was said to have sent a prompt and sympathetic  
response, assuring [Nixon] that he was still esteemed in  
Peking for having unfrozen the relations between the two  
countries. In conversations with foreigners, Chinese  
officials have left little doubt that they were unimpressed  
by the Watergate scandals and now genuinely regret Mr.  
Nixon's departure."

NYT 21 Oct 74, Joseph Lelyveld

Nixon (China) - See entry, China.