

27 Dec 74 ○ .

Cover-up trial - Prosecution gives final rebuttal arguments. Jurors will begin deliberations 30 Dec (Monday; today is Friday) after instructions in the law by Judge Sirica. *AMP-A*  
NYT 28 Dec 74, Lesley Oelsner (See entry, Haldeman.)

Nixon (support funds) - Ford, on Christmas vacation at Vail, Colorado, signs legislation providing \$200,000 for Nixon's pension and office expenses. Nixon funds are part of an \$8.6-billion supplemental appropriation for several new Federal programs. *AMP-C*

NYT 28 Dec 74 [UPI]

McCord files \$10-million damage suit against his original attorneys, accusing them of "legal malpractice" in the handling of his defense at the first Watergate burglary trial. In intv McCord says he is filing the suit because "there was not a fair trial or due process of law," and that he was not properly represented because his lawyers "were in collusion with the prosecution and federal officials."

The only lawyer named in the story is F. Lee Bailey; Gerald Alch and William O. Bittman are mentioned but it is not clear if they are defendants in the suit.

WXP 28 Dec 74, Deborah Sue Yeager

F. Lee Bailey  
Gerald Alch  
William O. Bittman } See entry, McCord files ....

Butterfield - House Special Subcommittee on Investigations, which has conducted a nine-month study of air hazards, issues report accusing the Federal Aviation Administration of (NYT) "avoiding leadership and showing signs of 'sluggishness which at times approaches an attitude of indifference to public safety.'" Committee chairman, Rep. Harley C. Staggers, says there is a tendency in the FAA (NYT:) "to view its twin jobs of promoting the industry as 'competing interests to be balanced off against each other.'" Butterfield has no comment on the report.

NYT 28 Dec 74, Richard Witkin

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Haldeman - "The government rebuttal to the defense arguments began with Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste, who concentrated on Haldeman's contention that he never intended to obstruct justice in the Watergate case. [See clippings, NYT and EXP, for examples of Ben-Veniste's arguments.] ....

"His voice laden with sarcasm, Ben-Veniste also assailed Haldeman's claims on innocuous motives in enlisting top officials of the Central Intelligence Agency on June 23, 1972, to keep the FBI from tracking down some telltale Nixon campaign checks that had been cashed by one of the Watergate burglars.

"The former White House chief of staff and his lawyers had insisted that Haldeman merely wanted to spare one of the contributors, Minneapolis businessman Dwayne Andreas, the embarrassment of being unmasked as a Nixon campaign contributor when he was publicly known as a supporter of Democratic candidate Hubert H. Humphrey." (WXP) Acc 2-82

From NYT: "[Ben-Veniste] said ... that Mr. Haldeman's lawyers had raised in their summation a lot of 'dust,' as in cowboy movies, ... but little substance.

"He gave some examples of what he called 'dust.' One of the Haldeman lawyers [Strickler - WXP 24 Dec 74] said, he recalled, that Mr. Haldeman had been so busy doing such things as preparing for Mr. Nixon's trip to China that he had no time for Watergate.

"The trip to China, Mr. Ben-Veniste said, was in February, 1972, several months before Watergate."

NYT 28 Dec 74, Lesley Oelsner

\*"Pardoning Stressed At Trial."

Tapes (public broadcast) - Networks submit plan to Gesell for duplication of WH tapes, which he had requested when ruling 5 Dec (SFC [AP] 6 Dec 74). In brief filed today the networks ask that Gesell's final ruling include instructions for duplicating the tapes so that the two questions involved, whether the tapes can be made public, and how they should be made public, can be appealed at the same time. (Nixon lawyers, 19 Dec, arguing that the tapes should not be broadcast, asked that Gesell make his ruling final so they

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[from preceding page]  
could appeal it.) Network proposal, submitted today, is made  
public 30 Dec 74.

According to the network plan, they would contract for  
copying of the tapes with BEN Engineering, Cambridge, Mass.,  
the firm which copied the tapes turned over by Nixon to the  
special prosecutor for use during the trial.

WXP 31 Dec 74 [UPI]

(27 Dec 74) AMP

Ⓐ - "All five defendants are charged with the basic conspiracy count; all but Mr. Mardian are charged with obstruction as well. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Haldeman each face three additional perjury charges; Mr. Ehrlichman, two perjury counts."

NYT 28 Dec 74, Lesley Oelsner

- "The jurors must consider the testimony of 85 witnesses, more than 12,000 pages of transcript, nearly three dozen White House tapes, several score documentary exhibits and final arguments from eight lawyers that ran 21 hours."

SFEx 29 Dec 74 [UPI]

- "Judge Sirica will tell [the jury] that just 'one overt act' in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy is sufficient, even though the cover-up indictment sets out 45 of them."

WXP 29 Dec 74, George Lardner Jr.

- See Lesley Oelsner, for summary of basic prosecution case\*; defense offered by defendants; questions raised by the trial; list of prosecution and defense lawyers.

NYT 30 Dec 74, Lesley Oelsner

Ⓑ - Also NYT 30 Dec 74, Lesley Oelsner

Ⓒ - "One of the major items Congress cut from the bill was funds for Mr. Nixon to build or buy a vault in California to store the White House tapes and other documents from his Administration. The legislation prohibits the use of any funds from the supplemental appropriation for transferring the tapes or other Nixon Administration documents to California."

NYT 28 Dec 74 [UPI]