

2 Jan 75 ①

Nixon (no statement on verdicts - see entry 1 Jan) - Story datelined San Clemente says that none of the newsmen gathered there in anticipation of Nixon reaction to verdicts was allowed inside the Nixon estate. "Instead, the following statement was read to them over a telephone in the lobby of a nearby motel:

"Former President Nixon's attorney has advised him against making any specific statements about yesterday's verdicts, because the defendants have stated their intention to file appeals.

"President Nixon is deeply anguished by Watergate, and that these men, who were among his closest aides, and their families, have suffered so much, and that their lives have been so tragically touched by Watergate."

Story says that the person who (presumably) read this statement is an "associate" of Nixon's, "who asked to be identified only as someone who has spoken with the former President after the verdict was returned."

NYT 3 Jan 75, John M. Crewdson

- UPI, immediately after saying that the "aide" declined use of his name, points out that it was Ziegler who yesterday said Nixon would have a statement on the outcome of the trial. ~~However~~ NYT said yesterday that "A spokesman at the Nixon home here said the statement [announced for today] would be issued ... by [Ziegler]."

SFC 3 Jan 75 [UPI]

NYT 2 Jan 75 [Special to NYT]

Ehrlichman (taping system) - Ehrlichman, in television intv, says he learned of the WH taping system about the time it was disclosed to the Senate Watergate committee in July, 1973, after he had left the White House. (AP's wording.)

SFC 3 Jan 75 [AP]

- Ehrlichman says the tapes ~~used at the time~~ made public provide a "highly warped view of what went on," because they are only "about a tenth of one per cent of all the tapes. My argument is that if you're going to hear that much, you ought to hear them all. Then you'll get some balance in this thing."

SFC 3 Jan 75 [AP]

2 Jan 75 (2)

Nixon - "The Big Enchilada Escapes," by Tom Wicker.

.... "If anybody belonged in that dock, with or without the other defendants, it was Richard Nixon. If anyone should have heard the word 'guilty' applied to him, it was Richard Nixon. If anyone should have had to suffer the judgment of the people, it was Richard Nixon, in whose name and service, for whose purposes and protection, so many crimes had been committed by so many people

"But the big enchilada escaped impeachment and removal from office by resigning two jumps ahead of constitutional retribution. He escaped legal accountability for any and all crimes he committed, caused to be committed, concealed or condoned, while President, because of Gerald Ford's unexplained but highly suspect pardon. He even escaped testifying at the trial just completed because of ill health - an escape no less to be deplored because of its reason

"Pardoning some or all of those convicted will not balance the scales. Too many have served time; too much guilt has been forgiven. The hard truth is that justice has not and cannot be done in the Nixon scandals, because the big enchilada has escaped."

NYT 3 Jan 75, Tom Wicker

Neal (resignation) - "In Nashville ... the chief Watergate prosecutor, James F. Neal - who resigned as of today to return to his law practice one day after obtaining four convictions in the cover-up trial - [said] in an interview in The Nashville Banner, [that] 'There was no doubt in my mind, absolutely none, of the involvement of President Nixon. I don't think anyone could listen to the tapes and reach any other conclusion.' He added, 'I personally thought [President Ford] was correct, all things considered, in pardoning the former President.'"

WXP: "Noting that he had not spoken publicly on the matter before, Neal added, however, 'I thought President Ford's timing was bad. I was shocked and concerned about the timing of the pardon announcement, but I thought his action was correct.'"

WXP 3 Jan 75, Lawrence Meyer

2 Jan 75 (3)

Grand juries (no extensions?) - "Henry S. Ruth, the special prosecutor, expects his office to have completed all its business [investigations of other Watergate cases] by ~~complete~~ next June. Mr. Ruth said today that it would not be appropriate to ask Congress to extend the terms of the two Federal grand juries looking into Watergate matters. One goes out of existence next month, the second in June."
NYT 3 Jan 75, Linda Charlton

Nixon/Hunt - "I suspect that Richard Nixon knew quite a bit about Hunt, knew precisely the kind of man he was. They had met as far back as the Fifties, as Hunt recounts in his book ["Undercover"] [Excertps given.]
Rolling Stone 2 Jan 75, Timothy Crouse