

5 Mar 75

Haldeman gives extensive intv to Mike Wallace, CBS News, "for a fee reported to be 'in the neighborhood' of \$25,000; ⁴⁻¹⁸⁻⁷⁵ CBS says the intv will yield at least one hour-long news special and possibly two, and if the network decides to use two programs Haldeman's fee will be larger. The film includes amateur movies taken by Haldeman of WH events and Nixon trips.

Robert Chandler, vice president of public affairs broadcasting for CBS News, says Haldeman will have no control over the program. "He has accepted our ground rules for a straight-forward news interview, in effect putting himself at our mercy. He does not get to see the film in advance, and we will edit it in any way that we see fit." The program will probably be scheduled for some time in March. (First hour of two-hour program broadcast 23 Mar.)

NYT 6 Mar 75, Les Brown

- From comment by Reston: "Isn't this a dangerous precedent? Isn't [CBS] buying, not a property, like memoirs, but buying news?.... CBS says it does not buy news, but only 'memoir-type broadcasts,' like its excellent interviews with the late Presidents Eisenhower and Johnson; ... [but] the plain fact is that anything Mr. Haldeman says about Watergate, which presumably was discussed, is news. When he walked out of Judge Sirica's court-room as a convicted felon, his answer to all questions was 'no comment,' but he had his price for his news and CBS paid it."

NYT 7 Mar 75, James Reston

Hunt testifies in closed session with staff of Rockefeller commission on the CIA. See entry 7 Mar 75, Hunt (and Sturgis).

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①- "High-ranking sources at CBS News have disclosed [no date] ~~it~~ ... that [Haldeman] received \$100,000 for his two one-hour interviews with Mike Wallace on March 23 and March 30 - not \$50,000 as had been reported previously. The sources, who had supplied the original \$50,000 figure and vouched for its accuracy several times, volunteered the new information for the sake of the record. The network, officially, has refused to discuss the terms for the [interview]."

NYT 12 Jul 75 [no attribution]