

13 May 75 (1)

Butterfield "apology" - "Butterfield ... publicly apologized to the Nixon family [today] for [the statements he made 11 May]. [He] did not retract his statements but said he regretted reopening the subject. ....

"Butterfield said [today] he agreed to talk to the Associated Press about Watergate only because the subject had come up in a recent interview by a magazine [unnamed] *XMR-8* about his present job and future plans. He said that during that first interview he 'was careless and allowed the discussion to slip to Watergate and my personal opinions.'

"Butterfield said he wanted to make it clear that he had not intended to reopen the subject of Watergate and that he had talked about it only after questioning by reporters.

"'I don't think anyone respected more than I Mr. Ford's request of many months ago that we put all things Watergate-related behind us,' he said in a prepared statement. Certainly, no one wants more than I to see Watergate in the past.'

"'So I deeply regret this latest incident and I apologize most sincerely to the Nixon family,' he said." (Emphasis added.)

SFC 14 May 75 [AP]

13 May 75 (2)

Nixon (tapes of 23 Jun 72) - AP, in undated story, says Jaworski has confirmed (no date) an incident described by Theodore White in his book (Breach of Faith), in which Jaworski offered to reduce his demand for WH tapes from 64 to 18 and to withhold information that Nixon had been named an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate cover-up case. The compromise was discussed 5 May 74 (see entry that date, Jaworski goes to WH) and rejected by Nixon shortly after it was made.

"Jaworski said he met at the White House with [Haig and St. Clair]. He told them the grand jury had named Nixon an unindicted co-conspirator and that this would be disclosed in a court fight over the prosecutor's subpoena for 64 tapes sought as evidence of the cover-up.

"'I told them if I received 18 tapes, we could get along with them,' Jaworski said. 'The June 23 tapes were on top of the list. Haig asked for a day or two to give the answer.

"'The next day I went to [Judge Sirica] and informed him of the discussion. On Tuesday [7 May], St. Clair called and said the President was against it. You knew from that the tapes were devastating.'"

WXP 13 May 75 [AP]

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- See entry, 5 May 74, Jaworski goes to WH ....
- 6 May 74, Tapes (64)
- 7 May 74, St. Clair tells reporters ....

Jaworski's offer ~~was Nixon~~ to Nixon of compromise on subpoena for tapes - See entry, Nixon (tapes of 23 Jun 72).

Jimmy Breslin - New book, "How the Good Guys Finally Won," advertised in NYT. Subtitle, "Notes from an Impeachment Summer."

WXP 13 May 75

13 May 75 (3)

Nixon tapes and documents - Sampson, testifying before Senate Government Operations subcommittee, says GSA believes that "virtually all information relating to the abuse of government power will be fully processed by 1980." See entry 19 Mar 75, same heading; date given at that time was the fall of 1979. Sampson says there may be other court actions which would delay the processing.

NYT 14 May 75 [UPI]

- Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis), speaking before the same committee, recommends that Congress reject GSA's proposal on the Nixon material, criticizing in particular a provision which would give Sampson, a Nixon appointee, final decision-making authority on what materials should be released; says "Having a political appointee make the final determination with respect to the retention and public availability of the materials poses serious risks . . . The decisions on the Nixon materials should be made, to the extent possible, by a nonpartisan group." Sampson says GSA's proposal includes sufficient safeguards to prevent politically-motivated decisions on which materials will be released; says a three-member panel of professional archivists would be much more involved than the GSA administrator, who probably would be called on to rule on access in only a small fraction of disputed cases.

WXP: "[Nelson] also charged that exemptions GSA has proposed . . . are too broad and 'could mean that the public would be denied access to vast amounts of material which should not be kept secret.' . . . Nelson criticized the proposed exemption of material 'When the release of those portions would tend to embarrass, damage or harass living persons.' He said, 'Almost by definition, the Watergate affairs are embarrassing to those who were associated with them.'"

WXP 14 May 75, Douglas Watson

Sampson - See entry, Nixon tapes and documents  
Sen. Gaylord Nelson - " "

(13 May 75)    AIP

Ⓐ - The tapes of 23 Jun 72 were among the 64 which the Supreme Court, 24 Jul 74, ordered Nixon to turn over to the special prosecutor. They were made public by Nixon 5 Aug 74, four days before he resigned.

Ⓑ - People Magazine, about to come out ~~around~~ 11 May, or already out; issue probably dated 16 or 17 May.  
Correspondence, Dick Barnes, AP, WX - this file,  
12 May 75.

Ⓒ - For list of some related refs, see entry, Early (?) May 74.