

14 Aug 75 ①

Ford appointments for other Watergate figures? - "Although the pardoning of Richard Nixon produced a political backlash, President Ford ... also may exonerate other Watergate figures by granting them presidential appointments. He has mentioned to aides that [Kleindienst, Harry Dent and ex-Rep. Wendell Wyatt] were caught in technical violations. All three pleaded guilty to minor, Watergate-related crimes.

"The President believes they are honorable men who have paid for their mistakes. He would like to give them back their good names by appointing them again to positions of public trust. He has in mind some honorary but prestigious spot for them, possibly on a presidential board or commission. He still thinks it was right to pardon Nixon [and is] equally convinced that some of the Watergate casualties deserve public rehabilitation."

WKP 14 Aug 75, Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

- In Vail, Colorado, a WH spokesman says that no former Nixon appointees who pleaded guilty to minor Watergate-related crimes are being considered for appointment by Ford.

SFC 15 Aug 75 [AP]

Watergate no longer a source of embarrassment to lawyers - Story is on American Bar Association convention in Montreal. Among those present: Jaworski, Sirica, St. Clair, Jenner. Story paraphrases remarks made by some of them.

"Watergate, in which lawyer after lawyer either pleaded guilty to or was convicted of committing crimes, has ceased to be much of an embarrassment to the legal profession.... Instead, judging from the speeches and panel discussions ..., Watergate has become, if anything, almost a source of pride for the profession - pride in those lawyers who behaved responsibly or honorably in the scandal and its aftermath, such as the special prosecutors, the Federal judges and the 38 lawyer members of the House Judiciary Committee in the impeachment inquiry....

"Mr. St. Clair said that the resolution of Watergate occurred when many officials acted responsibly and that 'I'm proud to say most of them were lawyers.' In this group he included the judges, the prosecutors, the members of the Judiciary Committee and, ultimately, Mr. Nixon, in that he finally resigned."

NYT 15 Aug 75, Lesley Oelsner

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Nixon (television intv) - "The vulgarity of the thing is beyond belief. Richard Nixon, who refused to discuss his administration's scandals with the people who elected him, the Congress or the courts, has now contracted to talk for pay with a British entertainer....

"The first vulgarity lies in the way that the Recluse of San Clemente has decided to make his re-entry into our national life. Neither the dignity of the great office he once occupied, nor honor, nor duty could prompt him to talk about Watergate. He will, however, take money to discuss the scandal which will forever burden his name in our history.

"The second vulgarity derives from the forum Richard Nixon has chosen for his revelations.... " See entry, 10 Aug.

WXP 14 Aug 75, Rod MacLeish

Nixon acted responsibly in resigning (St. Clair) - See entry, Watergate no longer