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WASHINGTON, April 30—Following are a few of the significant highlights from the edited transcripts released by the White House of taped conversations between President Nixon and his aides:

HUSH MONEY—The transcript include several discussions of payments to defendants in the Watergate break-in. Mr. Nixon seems to have considered that option seriously. In a conference with the President and H. R. Haldeman, then White House Chief of Staff, on March 21, 1973, for example, John W. Dean 3d, Mr. Nixon's counsel, raised "the problem of the continued blackmail which will not only go on now, but it will go on while these people are in prison . . ." The President asked, "How much money do you need?" and later said the following: "You could get a million dollars. You could get it in cash. I know where it could be gotten. It is not easy, but it could be done. But the question is who the hell would handle it? Any ideas on that?" Later in the same meeting, Mr. Nixon spoke of the need "to keep the cap on the bottle." But at no time, it appears, did he order that hush money be paid.

CLEMENCY—In a Feb. 28, 1973, meeting with Mr. Dean, the President voiced sympathy "for those poor guys in jail, particularly for Hunt with his wife dead" and asked Mr. Dean what the seven original Watergate defendants expected. The President asked, "Do they expect clemency in a reasonable time? What would you advise on that?" On March 21, Mr. Nixon agreed with Mr. Dean that clemency would be "politically impossible."

When the question of clemency for E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate conspirator, was raised, Mr. Nixon said to Mr. Dean that it could not be done "politically until after the '74 election, that's for sure. Your point is that even then you couldn't do it," he added. Mr. Dean replied, "That's right. It may further involve you in a way you should not be involved in this." It was at this point that the President made the remark that he has previously quoted in the context of payments: "No—it is wrong, that's for sure."

WATERGATE BREAK-IN—There was no evidence in the edited transcripts that Mr. Nixon knew about plans for the Watergate break-in before it took place. In his Feb. 28, 1973, meeting with Mr. Dean, the President described his initial reaction to the news: "[Expletive deleted] Of course, I am not dumb and I will never forget when I heard about this [adjective deleted] forced entry and bugging. I thought, what in the hell is this? What is the matter with these people? Are they crazy? I thought they were nuts! A prank! But it wasn't! It wasn't very funny!"