

Priest's Superior Allows Him To Continue as Aide to Nixon

NYTimes

JUN 3 1974

BOSTON, June 1 (AP)—The Rev. John J. McLaughlin, who became involved in a dispute with his Jesuit superiors because of his political activities as a deputy special assistant to President Nixon, will be allowed to work for the President "on a full-time basis," the Very Rev. Richard T. Cleary, the regional provincial of the Society of Jesus in New England, said Saturday.

Father Cleary had called Father McLaughlin home to Boston for "prayer and reflection" after the White House aide defended Mr. Nixon's use of profanity in transcriptions of conversations about the Watergate scandal.

Father Cleary had also questioned whether Father McLaughlin was fulfilling his vows of poverty and obedience by living in the expensive Watergate apartment complex in Washington.

In a seven-paragraph statement issued late today, Father Cleary said he and Father McLaughlin had "talked and reflected together and individually prayed over the matters raised in recent weeks."

"Father McLaughlin's work with the Government has certain unique aspects which may require a degree of flexibility in his living," the provincial said.

"I am now satisfied that, although his flexibility is not normative, it is permissible, given his special situation," Father Cleary said that "as far as the Jesuit period of prayer and reflection is concerned, I have decided with Father McLaughlin that he will fulfill his annual spiritual requirement when his schedule permits."

"I should like to stress again that Father McLaughlin is a Jesuit priest in good standing in the Society of Jesus," Father Cleary said.

Father Cleary said he had been faced with three options in dealing with Father McLaughlin: To do nothing, to instruct him to leave the White House or to recommend his dismissal from the Jesuit order. Dismissal from the order would not necessarily have affected his status as a priest.

Father Cleary said that "as far as any possible future statements on this matter are concerned, Father McLaughlin and I have agreed that further public discussion would serve no useful purpose."

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1974

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Ford Likens His Zigzag on Tapes to Football Tactic

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 2—To those critics who have suggested that he openly "zigs and zags" on such important issues as the release of taped White House conversations, Vice President Ford is fond of saying:

"Zig and zag, that's what a good broken field runner does."

An examination of his shifting views on the White House tapes would seem to indicate that Mr. Ford, a one-time star center for the University of Michigan, has assumed a new position on the gridiron.

For he has both criticized the President for refusing to release tapes and other material sought by the House Judiciary Committee and has also said that "the President's attitude is proper."

Here is a partial chronology of Mr. Ford's public statements on the tapes issue:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—Mr. Ford said that Mr. Nixon had assured him that release of key Watergate recordings and documents was being actively considered. "I have said the quicker the better," he said he told the President.

Charleston, S. C., March 15

—Mr. Ford criticized the staff of the House Judiciary Committee, declaring it was seeking to "dictate proceedings" and was on a "fishing expedition." The President "has been cooperative," he said.

Washington, April 2 — "If there is information on those tapes that is relevant to the definition of impeachment," he said, "I think it ought to be made available. But the key word is relevant. Somebody's got to make that judgment. How it's made, I don't know. . . . I have persistently urged that a flexible attitude be taken [by the White House] in reference to the tapes and documents."

Denver, April 5—The Vice President said he had urged Mr. Nixon to release all material "relevant to the impeachment process."

Troy, Mich., April 9 — Mr. Ford defended the White House decision to continue reviewing tapes and other material before turning anything over to the Judiciary Committee. He said he was confident that the White House, after completing its review, "will respond affirmatively to all requests for tapes

or other materials that are relevant."

Palm Springs, Calif., April 14 — He disclosed that he had sought to work out a compromise between the White House and the Judiciary Committee to avoid a confrontation over the tapes.

Monterey, Calif., April 18—He said that "in those portions of the tapes where there is a relevancy to the impeachment charge, if they give a transcription, I don't know why those portions of the tapes can't be made available. Now they might have to make some mechanical decision as to how you cut up a tape."

Washington, May 2—He said it would be wise if the White House would show "more flexibility" in the dispute over verifying the accuracy of the new released transcripts.

Honolulu, May 17 — Mr. Ford said he thought that the committee "was proceeding properly," and that he had repeatedly urged the White House "to get the tapes out" and "be as cooperative as possible, bend over backwards to cooperate with the committee."

Wilmington, Del., May 23—He said he hoped President Nixon would give the House

Committee any additional relevant material it sought and "the sooner the better."

Taped interview with ABC, May 23—Mr. Ford said that the White House's "stonewall attitude" in refusing to supply any additional material sought by the committee "isn't necessarily the wisest policy." He said: "My position is quite clear. Any relevant information, tapes, transcripts or other documents relevant to an impeachable offense, I think ought to be made available."

Danbury, Conn., May 26—Mr. Ford said that he had "quite candidly" spelled out his disagreement with the President over the White House refusal to supply additional evidence when he and Mr. Nixon met several days earlier. "I indicated there was no change in the position I had taken before, and I have shown no indication that I'm going to change it again," he said.

Birmingham, Ala., May 29—He said that Mr. Nixon's attitude in resisting demands for additional material "is proper" at this time.

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