

(Report below follows one by Robert Krulwich [Pacifica Radio, WX] on the underground installation at Mount Weather, 47 miles west of WX, which was "created by Presidents Truman and Eisenhower to house the national government in the event of a nuclear attack.")

KPFA: As for the probability in the post- or supposedly post-Cold War era of Russia actually attacking, a note [unclear, no explanation] from Senator Alan Cranston said today that perhaps former President Nixon might have been thinking of starting such a war. Cranston said that Rep. Charles Rose told him [no date] that he, Rose, was present at a White House meeting in which then-President Nixon said, quote, "I can go into my office and pick up the telephone and in 25 minutes 70 million people will be dead."

Cranston said that Rose and about thirty other Congress members were present at that meeting, one of several called by Nixon during "Operation Candor,"* a White House effort to stave off impeachment.** Cranston emphasized that Nixon's remark about his power to unleash a nuclear attack wasn't taken by the Congress members present as a threat aimed against stopping impeachment, but he said that the statement alarmed the Congress members because they were just afraid that under these tremendous pressures the President might, in effect, flip, and that nuclear war might be the consequence.

[Complete]

UPI: "Clem McSpadden was one of the first Democrats to visit the White House during Mr. Nixon's 'Operation Candor,' [story implies McSpadden was present when Nixon made the remark quoted above] just before Mr. Nixon resigned." McSpadden is described as "a former SFC 11 Feb 76 [UPI] Oklahoma congressman."

* Congressional Quarterly says Operation Candor was "initiated during the week ending [23 Nov 73]"; p. 432. Reference given to p. 416, which dates Nixon's meeting with members of Congress as beginning 13 Nov 73.

Congressional Quarterly, Watergate, p. 432 and p. 416

** Item in Rolling Stone on Cranston, without mention of Rose, quotes Nixon's remark as having been made in the summer of 1974 during meetings with "small groups of loyal House Republicans," and ties this in with orders by Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger ~~that~~ ~~any orders~~ to all military commands that any instructions from Nixon should be cleared through Schlesinger.

Rolling Stone 26 Feb 76 (filed 12 Feb 76)

SFC 24 Aug 74 [WXP, not in file] - on Schlesinger

Other refs, SFC 7 Feb 76.