

w/r
Je's notes 9/26, 7/73 re WxPost 8/23, 9/19/73; NYTimes 9/19/73 + Dairy moola/tapes OCT 5 1973

I do recall the stories but have not been reading those on tapins with care when at all. In reading these I see nothing but inconsistencies and find separate reason for crediting Nixon's original press-conf. statement. I do not have enough recall of the Ervin testimony on the taping, which is more than Butterfield, to cite it with certainty. First an explanation: When Nixon dismantled the existing set-up, assuming he did, he may have done as little as remove a portable machine from a desk, etc. We don't know what existed or what he "dismantled" if anything. The accounts I recall are of a primitive arrangement rarely used.

Question: can you imagine a Nixon finding something like that and not using it or improving it? I can't. I would imagine, in the absence of sure proof to the contrary, so he had and preserved some capability and that the arrangement to which Butterfield referred was an improvement over whatever he had.

This is ^{not} diminished by acceptance of the belief there was a tape of the March 1971 dairy session if there is any credibility in the Buzhardt statement that the Butterfield stuff was not installed until the following month. Otherwise, how could there be a tape?

The June 1970 date can be significant, for it was on 6/5/70, in the Oval Office, that Nixon gathered all his spooks and his staff Nazis together for the initial conference with him (as distinguished from among themselves) on his Gestapo plan approved 7/23/70. For that I am sure he would have wanted a tape. There were ~~so~~ many there an ordinary arrangement would not have caught all the voices. Nixon would remember this meeting and if he knew he wanted it recorded, he would have known that by the time he held it, he had the capability of recording it with some assurance he would pick up and preserve all the voices in the room.

It could also be that the existing equipment failed to pick up all the voices at this meeting and that the failure is why he had a better one installed. The occasion marked the most radical single step in any administration, so if for no other reason I think Nixon would have wanted all the voices. I can think of other reasons, persuasive. Like blackmail.

The one thing that can't be is the Buzhardt representation. If there is a dairy tape, there had to have been a machine to make it, and the meeting was the month before he said equipment was installed.

If there is a connection with the 6/5/70 meeting and that grand design, the matter of taping and tapes gets much more interesting. It transcends the sordid, the small-minded, the peephole mentality and becomes politically much more sinister.

Any thoughts? HW 10/1/73