

Thursday, May 24, 1973
Dallas Townsend

WATERGATE

Good evening everybody: The big question today at Senate Watergate hearings - was simply "who's lying?"; a question that was finally put into words - by Senator Baker of Tennessee.

The Senator noting glaring "discrepancies" in the testimony of James McCord and his present attorney, Bernard Fensterwald - as compared with that of McCord's previous attorney, Gerald Alch. He then asked Alch: "Is there anything you can suggest to us - that might shed some light on that apparent conflict of testimony?"

Alch replying: "Yes, sir, I suggest that both Mr. McCord and I, if he's willing - submit to a polygraph test." Alch further suggesting that he and Fensterwald - should also take lie detector tests.

Fensterwald's answer to that - later delivered to reporters during the luncheon recess. He said at first he

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would take a lie-detector test - "only if all witnesses" were given such a test. When pressed, adding that he would not take such a test - if only he and Alch were involved.

McCord's position - initially the same as that of Fensterwald. He then said, however: "I'll do whatever the committee asks for."

BARKER FOLLOW WATERGATE

Next witness: Another of the convicted Watergate burglars - Cuban-born Bernard Barker; under a grant of immunity - telling all about it for the first time in public.

Barker saying he was recruited for this and other political espionage - by fellow conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

He called his actions - "a matter of national security."

Barker adding that the Watergate raiders were seeking evidence of alleged campaign contributions - from Castro Cuba; contributions supposedly made to Senator McGovern - and "possibly" Senator Kennedy.

Barker also said that he ~~was~~ had no "personal grudge" against McGovern - but strongly "disagreed" with his philosophy.

WATERGATE

Late today, U.S. Attorney Harold Titus announced that the Federal prosecutors investigating the Watergate Affair will remain on the job - and indictments are expected within sixty to ninety days. Titus says one key figure - whom he doesn't identify - has already agreed to plead guilty without being granted immunity, and to testify as a prosecution witness.

EASTON

Republican William Mills of Maryland - was found shot to death today at his farm home in Easton, Maryland. This coming in the midst of charges that Mills had received secret financial aid - from the Committee to Re-Elect the President. Although Mills had said he did nothing improper, Police say that the shotgun wound that killed him - was apparently self-inflicted.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "PEPPERDINE

*And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas;
discussing tonight a new development - on the ecology front.
Lowell...*

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SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "PEPPERDINE"

Thank you, Lowell. A final story - in a moment.

PEPPERDINE

I have been chatting with the dynamic head of Pepperdine University. Chancellor Young and their trustee Perry Botkin, tell me Pepperdine's Malibu campus has become the birthplace of a rare, perhaps unique trust.

The late John Tyler - who founded the Farmers Insurance Group and his wife, setting up a five million dollar ecology fund, to provide for an annual award of one-hundred-and-fifty thousand - to the person contributing most to improving the world's environment.

This - in the words of the donors, "to help keep the U.S. in the fore-front of the fight against pollution;" to help overcome any "forces - despoiling land, air and water."

LONDON

Britain's latest sex-and-security scandal has claimed a second victim. Earl Jellicoe tendering his resignation - as leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal; saying he was doing so - because of "some casual affairs" involving "a ring of call girls."

Jellicoe's lawyer insisted, however, there had been no "breach of the law." Adding that "no danger to national security - arises out of these matters." In the same vein, Britain's Prime Minister Heath accepting the resignation - "with deep regret," and ordering an investigation.

WHITE HOUSE

After an overnight stay at Camp David - President Nixon today returned to the White House; to confer with Henry Kissinger - newly-returned from Paris; and later, to host a White House gala - for former U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam.

The President telling the ex-POW's - he was determined to protect the nation's "highly-classified documents." "Had we not had that kind of secrecy" - he continued - "you would still be in Hanoi." The President also saying: "It is time to stop making heroes - out of those people who steal secrets and publish them in the newspapers." Whereupon - a standing ovation.

NASHVILLE

One of the celebrities who will also attend the White House affair - film star John Wayne; who earlier - at Nashville, en route to Washington - was getting a few gripes off his chest.

Wayne saying: "I don't like the label of super-patriot." Adding: "I think I feel just like about a hundred and sixty million other people do - out of the two hundred million people in the U.S. I'm talking about the middle class. If it weren't for them - this country would collapse."

John Wayne also said he hates politics and politicians - and "being labeled a right-winger." "I have openly supported six people running for office" - said he - "and three of them were Democrats."

PARIS

The world's first joint U.S. and Soviet space exhibit - was unveiled today in Paris; a display featuring reproductions of the U.S. and Russian spaceships - to be used in our first joint venture in space in Nineteen-Seventy-Five.

Four Russian cosmonauts and one American astronaut General Tom Stafford - were also there. Stafford saying: "This joint project should be a way to open continued cooperation between our two countries - and to demonstrate to the world that we can live and work together in space."

CAPE KENNEDY FOLLOW PARIS

*At Cape Kennedy - the countdown continues
for tomorrow's scheduled launch - of America's first
Skylab space crew. So far - so good. Astronauts
Pete Conrad, Paul Weitz and Dr. Joe Kerwin - said to be
full of confidence.*

CANBERRA

When Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister of Australia six months ago - one of his first moves was an attempt to disassociate himself from U.S. policy. Now apparently - some second thoughts.

At any rate, Whitlam made today - his first major foreign policy address, stressing that ~~performance~~ permission for U.S. bases on Australian soil - will be continued.

Whitlam also praised President Nixon - for his diplomatic initiatives in Southeast Asia. These have been responsible - said he - for "ushering in a new and saner phase in our relations with China - and clearing the way in relations with the Soviet Union."

WALL STREET

Big day on Wall Street - stock market prices rose sharply - the Dow Jones Industrial average up more than twenty-nine points - closing at nine twenty-four point forty-four - the biggest one-day gain since Nineteen-Seventy-One. One factor may have been the government announcement that U.S. exports exceeded imports in April for the first time in Nineteen months.

LIZA

The newest twosome in London, as you may have heard - Oscar-winner Liza Minelli and British film star Peter Sellers; both of whom - were talking about it today.

Sellers saying: "We fell in love when we first saw each other." Adding: "I am going to marry her" - but first "we would just like to get on with being together."

Miss Minelli, for her part, saying: "It's just fabulous to be in love with a genius." She also said she wouldn't mind - becoming the fourth Mrs. Sellers. Why? Because - said she - "four is my lucky number."

Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.