

May 23, 1973 Wednesday
Substitute: Morton Dean

WATERGATE

In the Senate Watergate hearings - Gerald Alch, front and center today. The former attorney for convicted Watergate burglar James McCord - attempting to refute McCord's testimony on two key points.

Alch asserting, first: "At no time did McCord ever state to me that he believed the Watergate operation to be legal - as a result of the alleged involvement of the then-Attorney General, the Counsel to the President or anyone else." Alch adding, that it was "absurd and completely untrue" - that he had advised McCord to claim that the Watergate affair was a CIA operation. Alch further charging that additional portions of McCord's testimony - were "in some instances, false - and in other instances, twisted."

Alch also telling of a recent telephone conversation - with McCord's present attorney, Bernard Fensterwald.

Fensterwald quoted as saying: "We're going after the President of the United States." Alch testifying he then replied: "I'm not interested in any vendetta - but only in the interests of my client."

McCord and Fensterwald say they want a chance to rebut Alch's testimony - the committee says it's considering the request.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon met today with Republican Congressional leaders. The President apparently drawing strong support - from those present; from Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott and House Minority Leader Gerald Ford - both Republicans.

Scott saying: "This government is strong - this government will be stronger tomorrow than it is today - and it will be stronger next week." Scott adding that suggestions the President should resign or be impeached - were "incredible and unbelievable." Congressman Ford saying - he still believes in the President; and more important - he continued - he believes that most of the American people believe - still believe in the President.

BYRD FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

The President was also defended today - in a Senate speech by Democrat - Senate Whip Robert Byrd. "Some say the President should resign" - said Byrd. Adding, "I see no present justification ~~the~~ for this - and hence, do not agree." Some have suggested the President be impeached. " - he continued - "but such talk is, at best, premature and, at worst, reckless."

Byrd also said that doubts and suspicions about the President's conduct - "to date, remain just that - doubts and suspicions." And he stressed: "This is a time for restraint and sobriety - in our words, our actions and our judgements."

RICHARDSON

In rapid succession today , first the Senate Judiciary Committee and then the full Senate - approved the appointment of Elliot Richardson as Attorney General. Richardson's confirmation clearing the way for fellow Harvard-man Archibald Cox - to assume his duties as special Watergate prosecutor.

Along the way, the Senate also brushing aside a charge from Daniel Ellsberg - that Richardson had withheld certain information. Senator Scott saying the outcome was apparent - as soon as the Senate was given "a chance to contrast a thief and a Harvard man."

HOUSE FOLLOW RICHARDSON

On another front, that which was done yesterday by the Senate - was undone today by the House. The lower body voting to sustain a Presidential veto - which the Senate had earlier voted to override. The bill in question - one that would have made the President's top budget-makers - subject to Senate confirmation.

PARIS

In Paris - Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho - completing their latest round of talks on Vietnam. That done - it was again the Communist side disclosing the next step. Le Duc Tho telling reporters - he intends to remain in Paris. Adding, however, that Dr. Kissinger - "is leaving tonight for Washington." Dr. Kissinger himself later revealing plans for a resumption of talks - two weeks from now.

CAPE KENNEDY

At the Kennedy space center - the countdown was continuing today - for Friday's scheduled launch of America's first Skylab crew. Space workers were also stowing away the emergency sunshades and debris-clearing equipment - which will now accompany the men into space.

At the same time, astronauts Pete Conrad, Paul Weitz and Dr. Joe Kerwin - completing their final physicals. Dr. Royce Hawkins saying: "There are no problems - everything is normal - they are in high spirits."

While back in Washington - an expression of confidence from NASA Administrator James Fletcher - saying - the outlook is good - that repairs to the Skylab can be made; that it's three-man crew will then be able to carry out - "a "nearly normal" twenty-eight day mission.

PRESIDENT

At the White House President Nixon today reemphasized his support - for the construction of a trans-Alaskan oil pipeline. The President quoted as saying: "We need the oil - we need it now; and the only way to get it - is to build the Alaskan pipeline."

SAN ANTONIO-AUSTIN FOLLOW PRESIDENT

An energy crisis in parts of Texas, of all places.

*This leading to drastic cuts in allocations of natural gas -
to the cities of San Antonio and Austin; thus, forcing a
reduction - in electrical output; which has now lead, in turn
- to city-wide brown-outs. Officials adding that the gas
cutbacks could produce "catastrophe" - within ten days.*

SIDNEY

French goods arriving at Sydney, Australia - were beginning to pile up on the docks today; an estimated fifteen to twenty shiploads of materials - including perishables such as French cheeses.

This the result of a decision by the Australian Council of Trade Unions - to refuse to handle French goods; a protest against the continuation of French nuclear tests - in the South Pacific.

IRS

From the Internal Revenue Service - an announcement today confirming an audit of the income tax returns - of seven state governors. The IRS denied, however - that this was an attempt to harrass Democratic office holders. Calling it "routine" procedure. Adding that, four of the seven governors involved - are actually Republicans.

NEW YORK

From a man who pioneered hair transplants - comes news today of another major development in the treatment of male baldness. Dr. Norman Orentreich of New York City - telling of the development of new drugs to prevent hair loss. Adding: "It is something I am certain we can do - probably in the next year or two and no longer than five years." And the key to all this - he claims - is the male sex hormone, androgen.

REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
GUARUJA

*In the fun and serious games department - this from
Brazil; where the World Bridge Federation Championships -
have been in progress for the past week or so.*

*As you may have heard - an Italian team forging
an early lead. But now the defending champ Dallas Aces
- making their move; by smothering Indonesia and taking a
one-point edge. The U.S. and Italian teams to meet
tomorrow - in a match that will now decide the world
bridge championship.*

For Lowell Thomas - Morton Dean CBS News.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "FISH-HEART"

As you may have guessed by now - Lowell Thomas is off on another jaunt; in the meantime - a special report he left behind...

FISH-HEART

From Seattle comes a report on a long and exhaustive study of diet in relation to heart disease. Heart specialist Dr. Averly Nelson working with hundreds of coronary victims over a nineteen year period; placing his patients on varying diets - one meat based, another vegetarian and so on. And now the results: "Dr. Nelson reporting that those who subsisted mainly on fish - lived, on the average nearly twice as long as those who didn't!

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "FISH-HEART"

More in a moment.